JUMP COMICS

巻ノ三十二

サスケへの道!!



NARUTO
-ナルト-

岸本斉史

COLORED MANGA.COM



岸本斉史

It's 2006. I believe the serialization began in 1999, so that means we've entered our seventh year of publication! Long enough for kids that were just entering elementary school to now be in junior high... I recently started noticing how it seems like the years pass quicker and quicker. Where in the world did the time go?! When in the world did I become middle-aged?! Yikes...

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2006

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.



JUMP COMICS

NARUTO

巻ノ二十二

サスケへの道(みち)!!



岸本斉史(きしもとまさし)

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主な登場人物

春野サクラ

うずまき
ナルト

ヤマト

サイ

はたけ
カカシ

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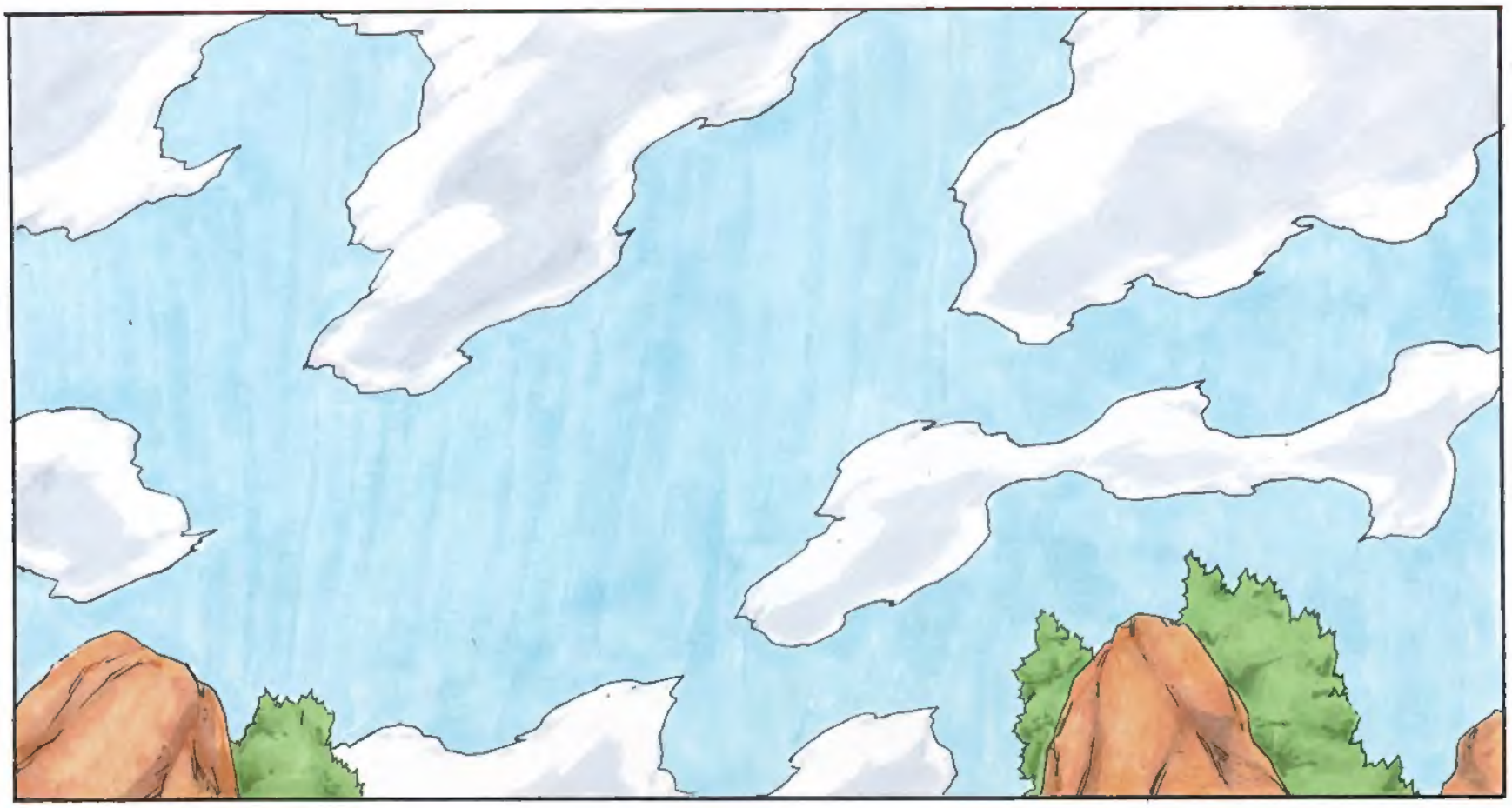
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Discord Links included there.
Contact Anna on Discord.
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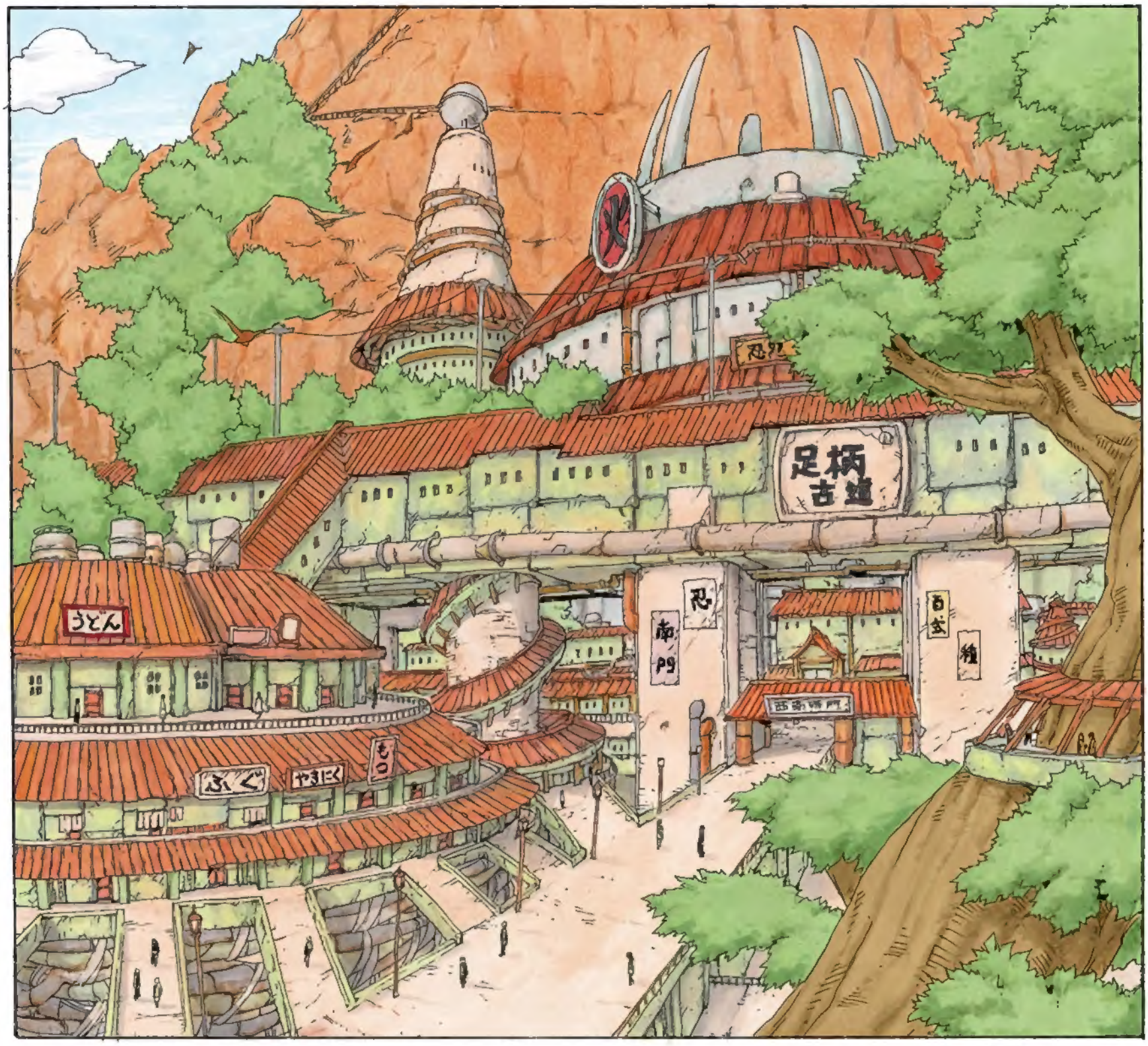
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Also, we promote Youtubers or Creator Groups, just ask. Please make sure you promote our ColoredManga.com Website in return!!

ナンバー

281 : THE SEARCH FOR SASUKE!!





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281: THE SEARCH FOR SASUKE!!

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NARUTO

-ナルト-



THEY'RE SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO KONOHA THREE DAYS FROM NOW.

TEAM GUY AND TEAM KAKASHI HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR MISSIONS.

LORD KAZEKAGE HAS RETURNED SAFELY TO HIS VILLAGE.

SUFFERED JUST ONE CASUALTY... SUNA-GAKURE'S GRANNY CHIYO.

.....

VERY WELL ...

WHAT IS IT?

UM... LADY TSUNA-DE?

.....

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EVEN THOUGH *THIS* MISSION WENT RELATIVELY WELL...

...I STILL AGREE WITH LORD JIRAIYA THAT IT IS INADVISABLE TO INTENTIONALLY SEND NARUTO...

...INTO THE LAIR OF THE VERY PEOPLE TARGETING TAILED BEASTS...

DESPITE THE FACT THAT FORMER BLACK OPS HATAKE KAKASHI IS HIS COMMANDER...

...WHY CONTINUE TO TAKE SUCH GREAT AND DANGEROUS RISKS WITH HIM...?

BECAUSE HE'S A JINCHU-RIKI.

THE ONLY PEOPLE THAT TRULY UNDER-STAND JINCHU-RIKI...

...ARE OTHER JINCHU-RIKI.

!?

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...HE'S GOT THAT MYSTERIOUS POWER...

AND BESIDES ...

...ONE THAT MAKES EVERYONE... WANT TO BET ON HIM...

(HEADSTONE: CHIYO)

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SAKURA, YOU COMING?

SAKURA, NARUTO, TIME TO GO.

RIGHT!

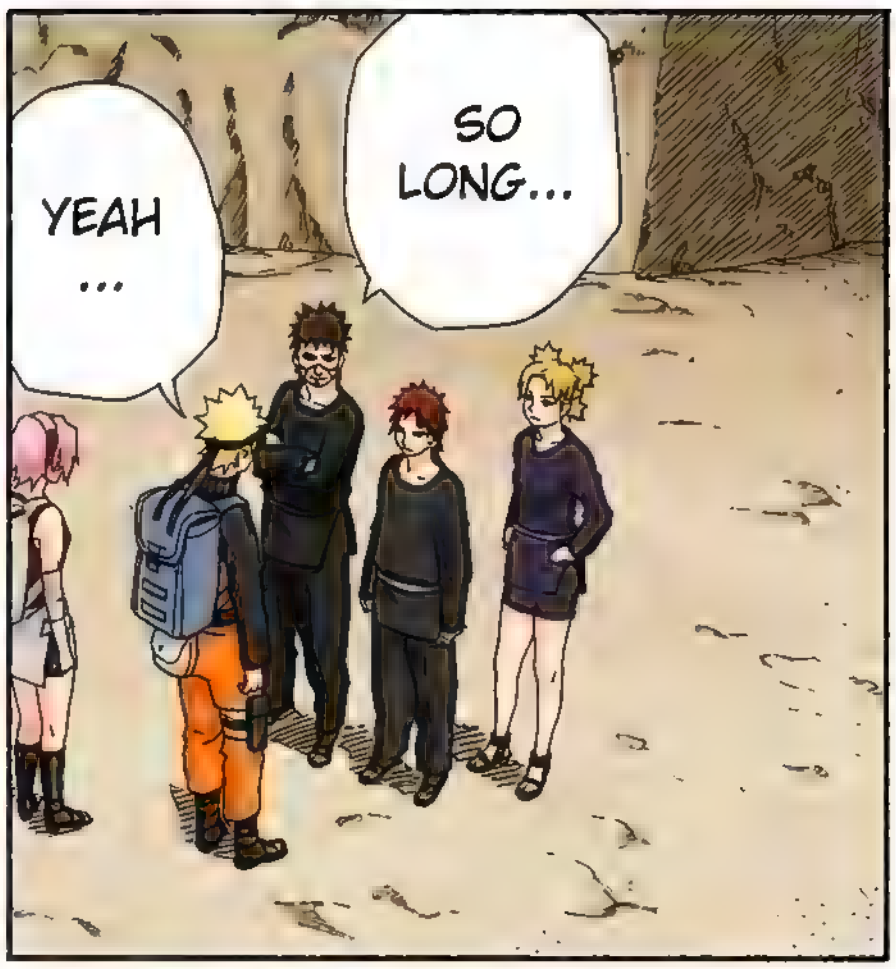
THANK YOU... GRANNY CHIYO...

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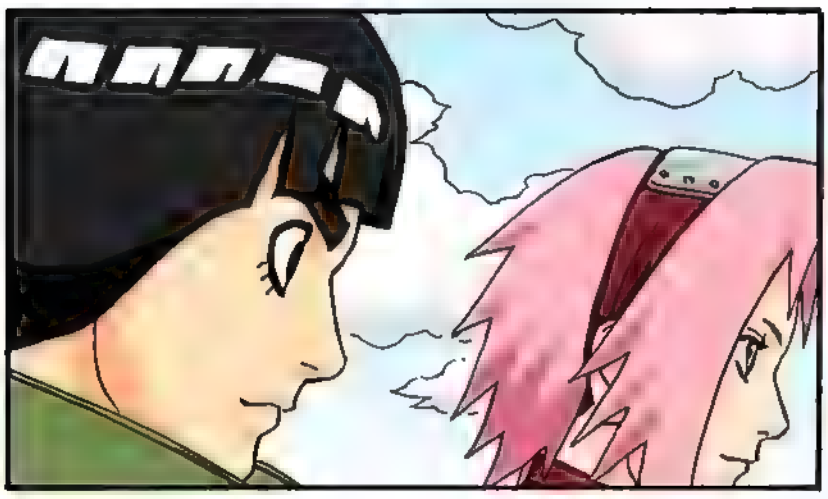


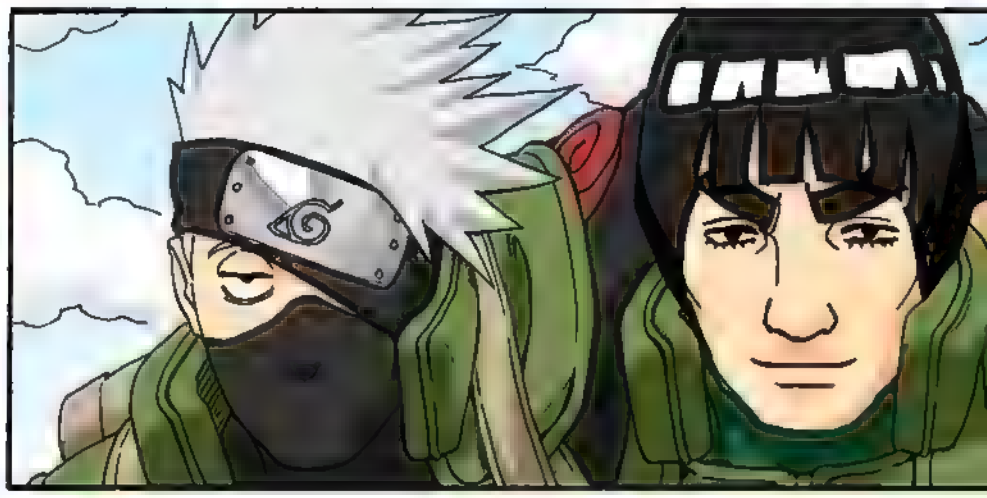




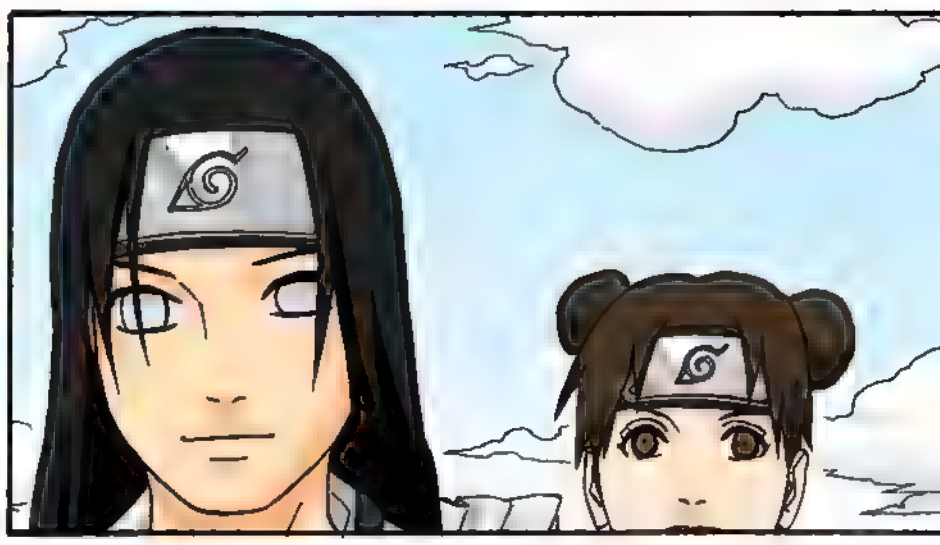


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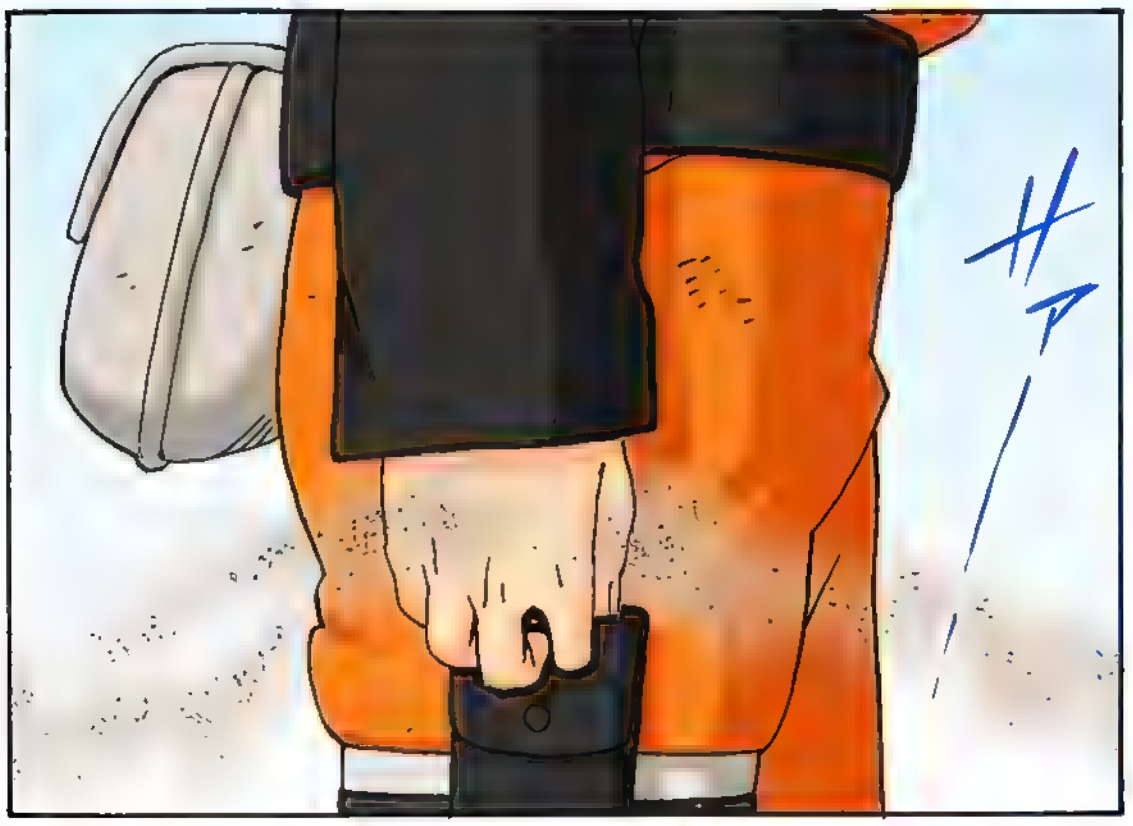




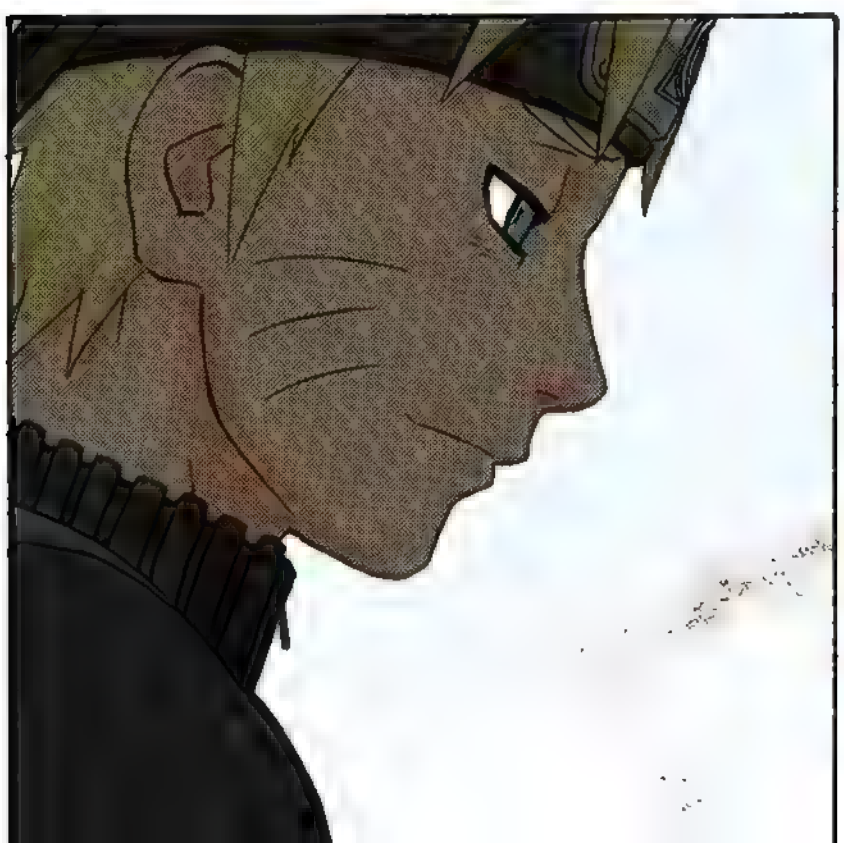
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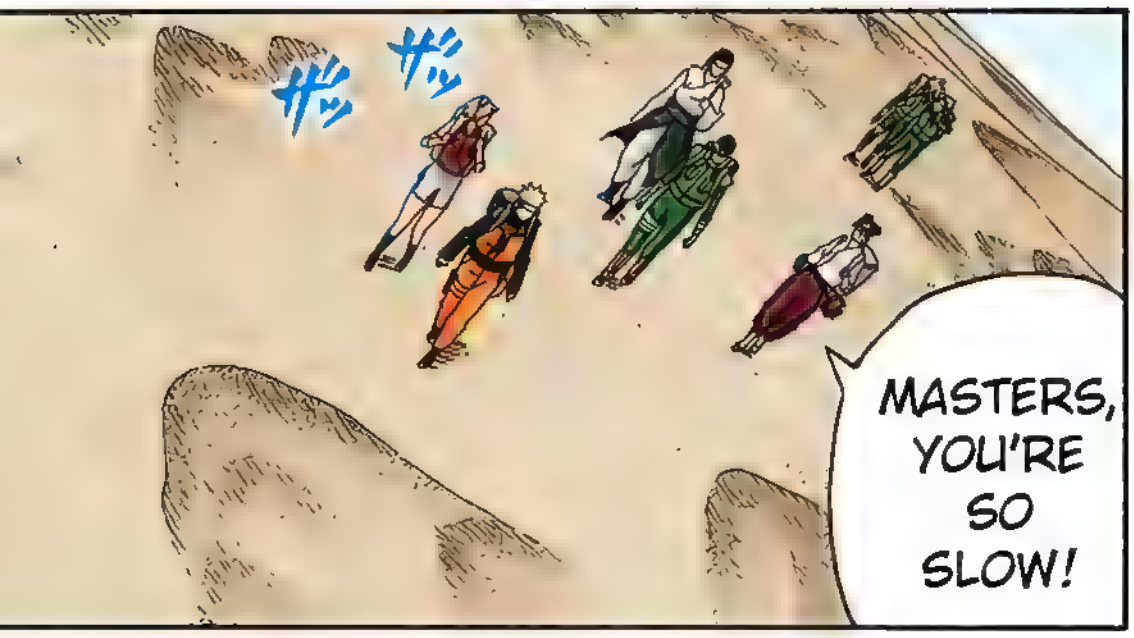
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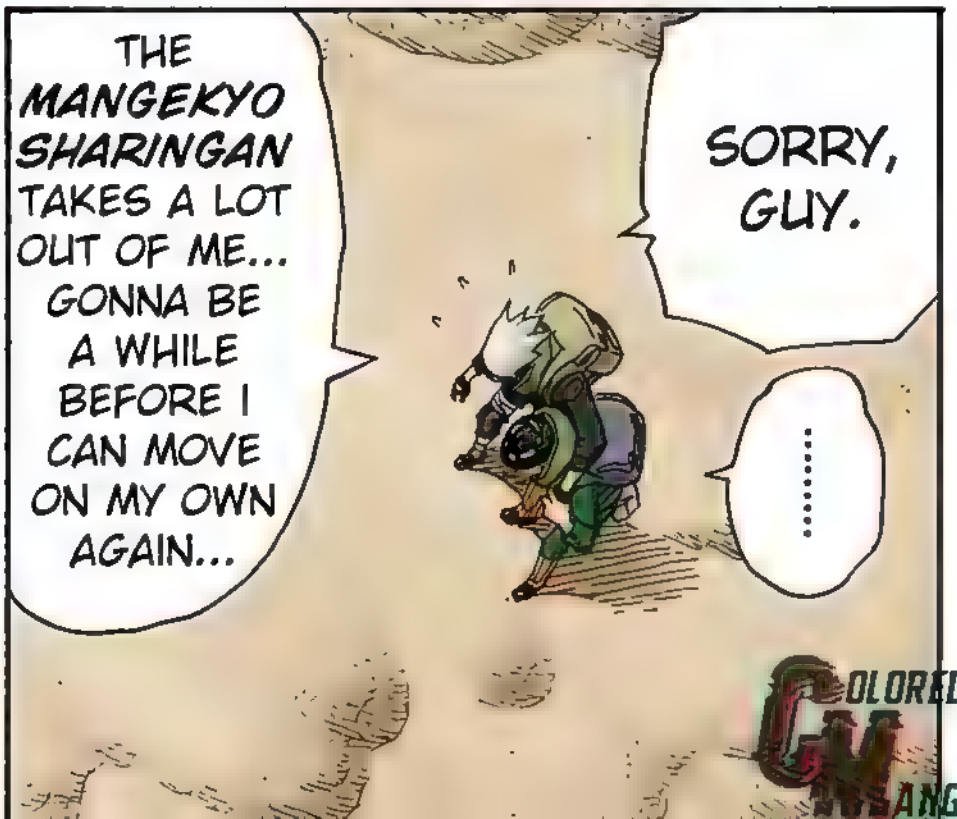








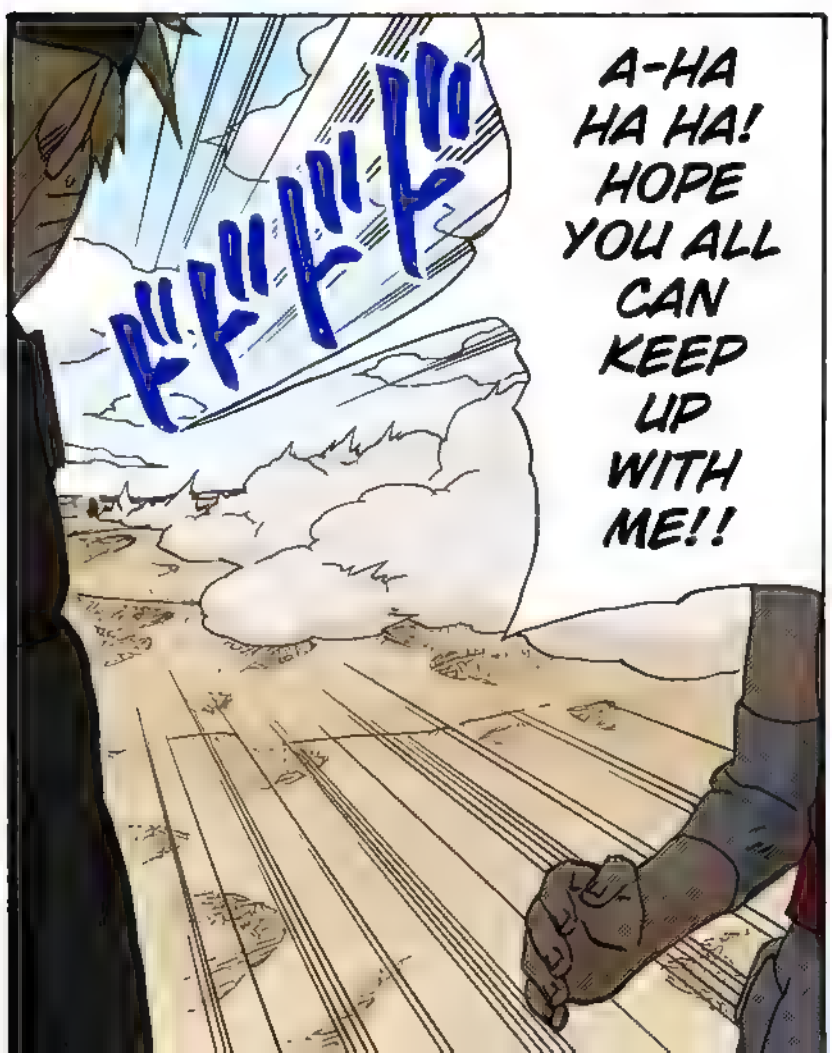




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BRILLIANT, MASTER GUY! A TRAINING DRILL!!
.....
ERRR... WHAT?!
ARE THEY PLAYING PIGGYBACK? ...THAT'S JUST WEIRD...
UMM, WHAT ARE THEY DOING?


A-HA HA HA! HOPE YOU ALL CAN KEEP UP WITH ME!!


OKAY, PEOPLE! NOW WE'RE MOVING !!
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NO, THANK YOU!

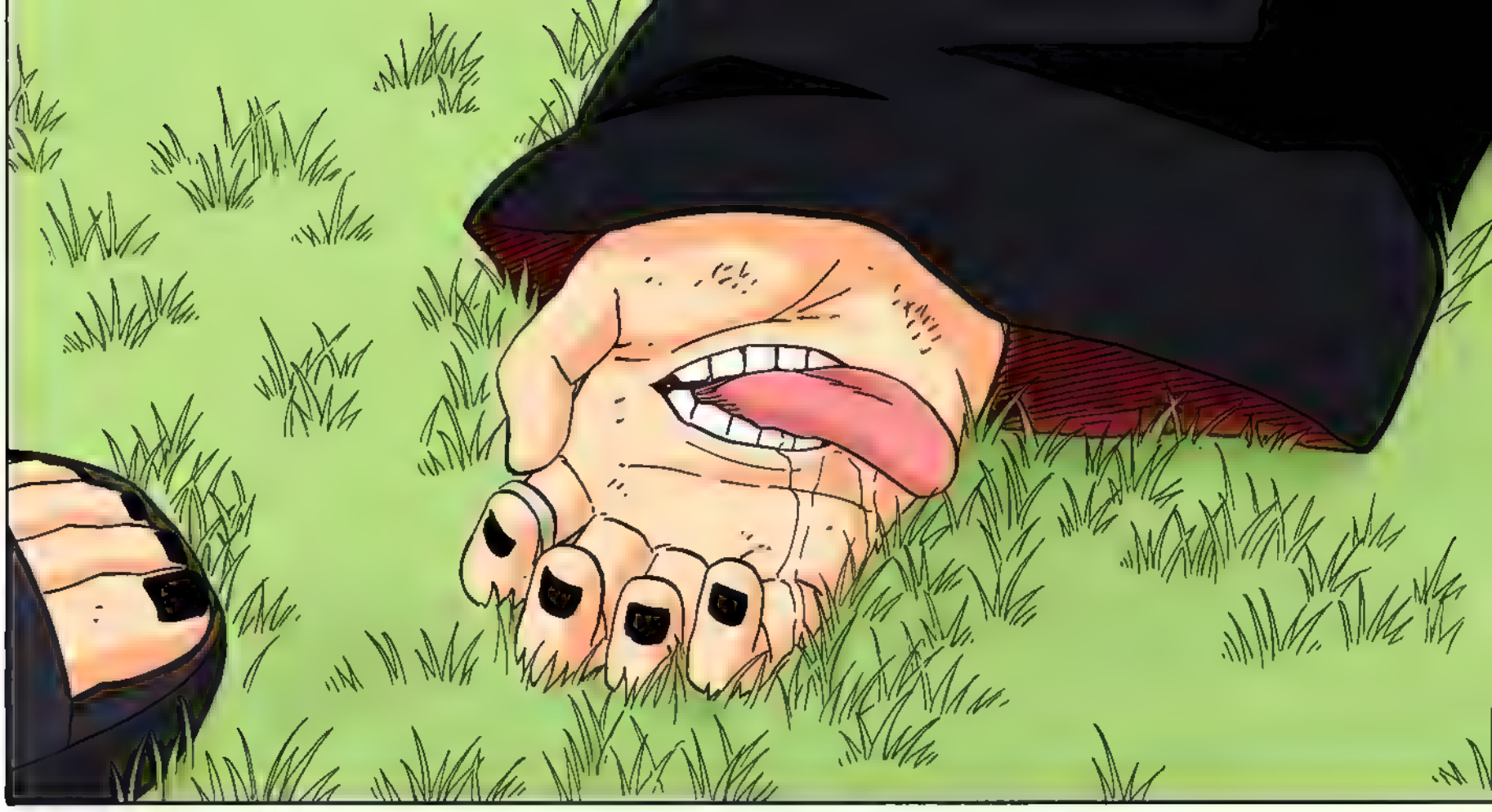
NEJI ...?

...OKAY, THIS LOOKS EVEN WEIRDER WHEN THEY'RE IN MOTION ...

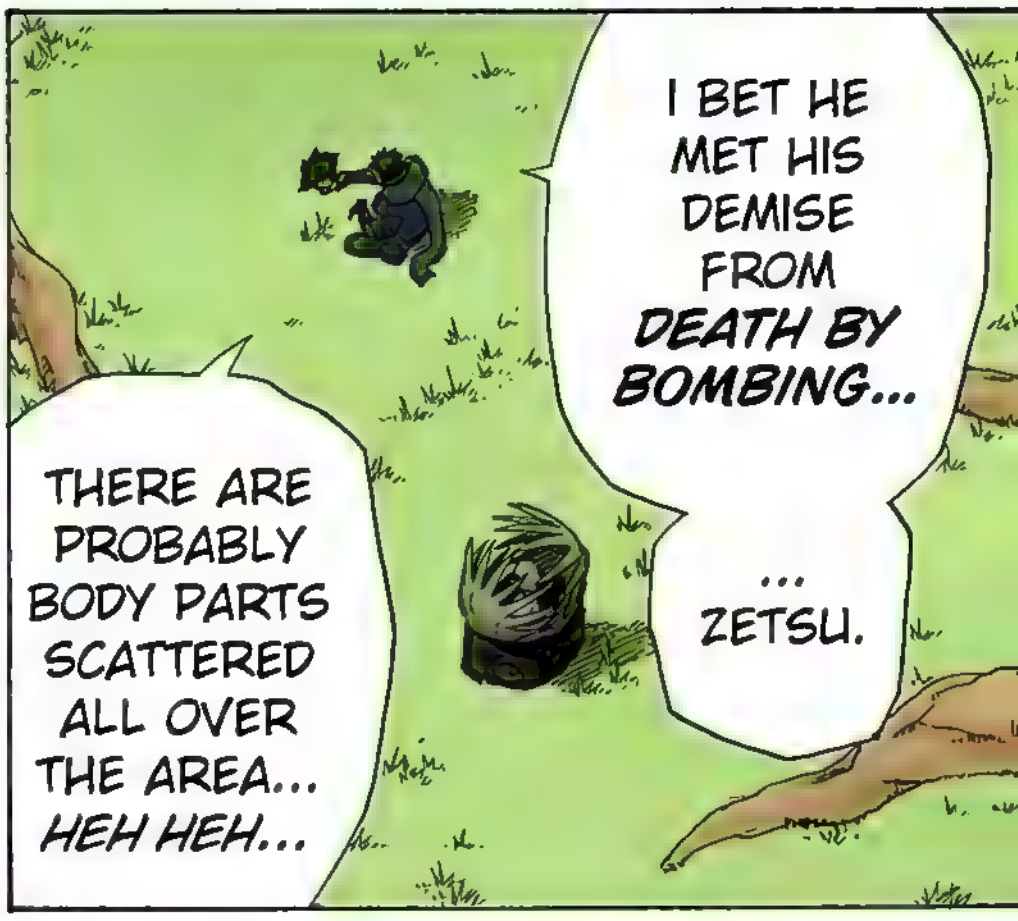
...SEEMS WE'VE LOST DEIDARA.

ALAS, MR. ZETSU ...

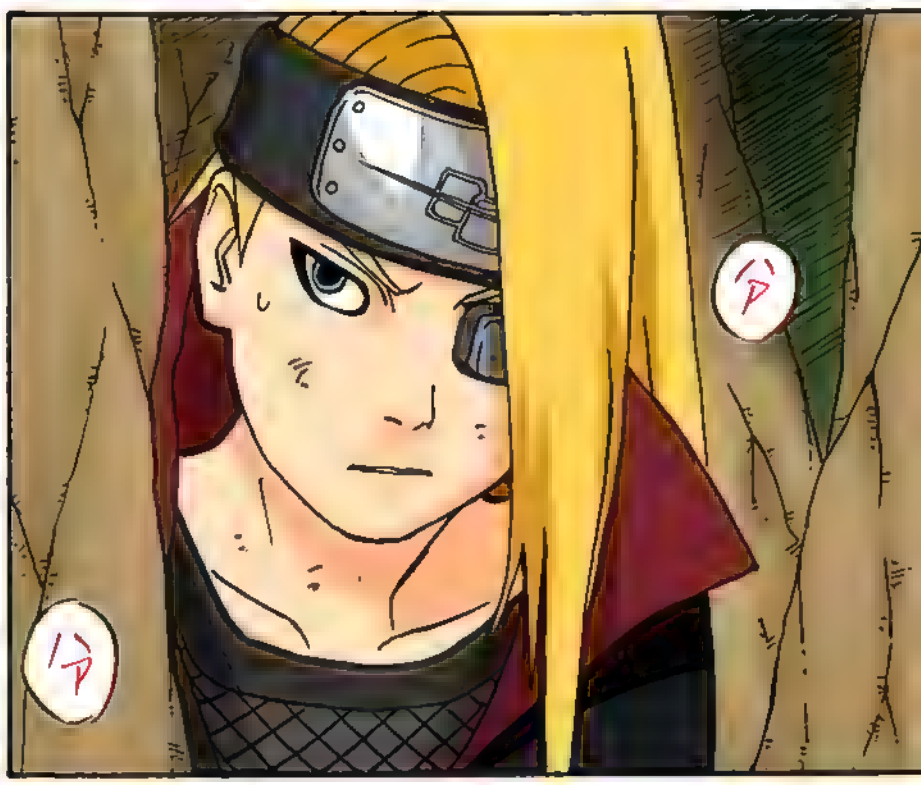
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!
YOU THERE, DROP MY HAND!


I BET HE MET HIS DEMISE FROM DEATH BY BOMBING...
THERE ARE PROBABLY BODY PARTS SCATTERED ALL OVER THE AREA... HEH HEH...
... ZETSU.


WELL... MY TASTE BUDS DO BETRAY ME ...YOU'RE ALIVE!



I HAVE COM-PLETED MY MISSION ... HMMM?

WHAT HAPPE-NED TO THE JINCHU-RIKI?

.....

BUT AT LEAST YOU'RE IN ONE PIECE...

...OR PER-HAPS NOT...

A CLOSE ONE THOUGH, EH, DEIDARA?

DEATH BY SUFFO-CATION ...!

UGH!

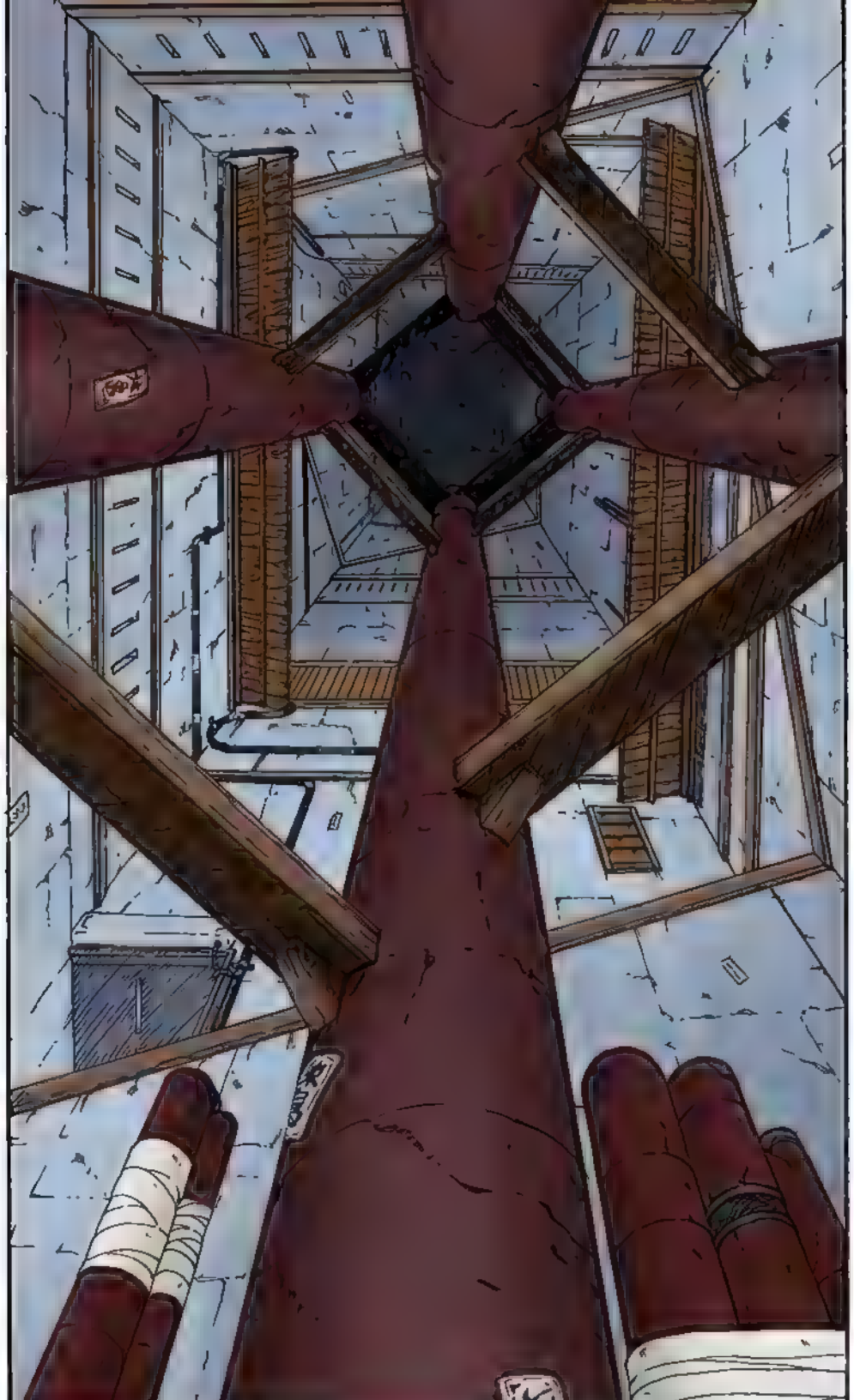
ULP! D-DEATH BY B-BOMB-ING...?

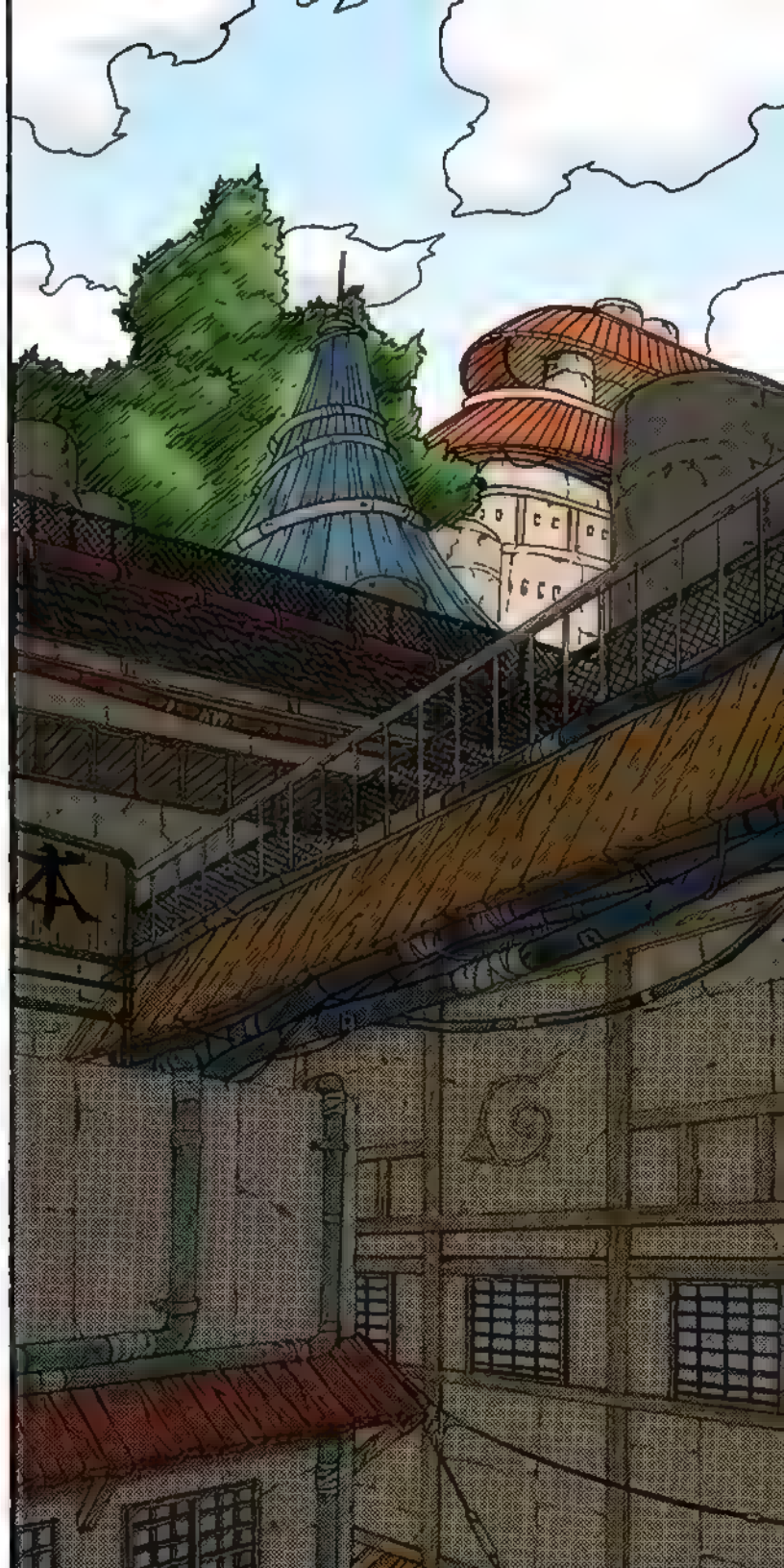
THERE ... THAT'S IT.

TOBI, EVEN THE BUDDHA LOSES PATIENCE EVENTUALLY...

ONE MORE WORD, AND THERE'LL BE NO DOUBT ABOUT THE CAUSE OF YOUR DEATH... HMMM?

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I HAVE ALREADY MADE ARRANGE-MENTS...

...FOR YOU TO BE ASSIGNED TO TEAM KAKASHI ...

NOT ONLY ARE YOU AND UZUMAKI NARUTO CLOSE IN AGE...

...YOU'RE BOTH STRONGER THAN YOUR PEERS...

AND YOUR TALENT WITH THE BRUSH... IS SIMPLY UNSUR-PASSED.

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, UNTIL YOUR MISSION IS COMPLETED...

...YOU SHALL BE KNOWN AS ***SAI***...

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SAI... IS IT...?

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FORGIVE ME, SIR... BUT IT WAS MENTIONED IN THE TEXTS THAT THE FIRST STEP TOWARD WINNING A PERSON'S HEART IS A ***SMILE...***

WHEN YOU'RE IN FRONT OF ME, WIPE THAT FAKE SMILE OFF YOUR FACE.

.....

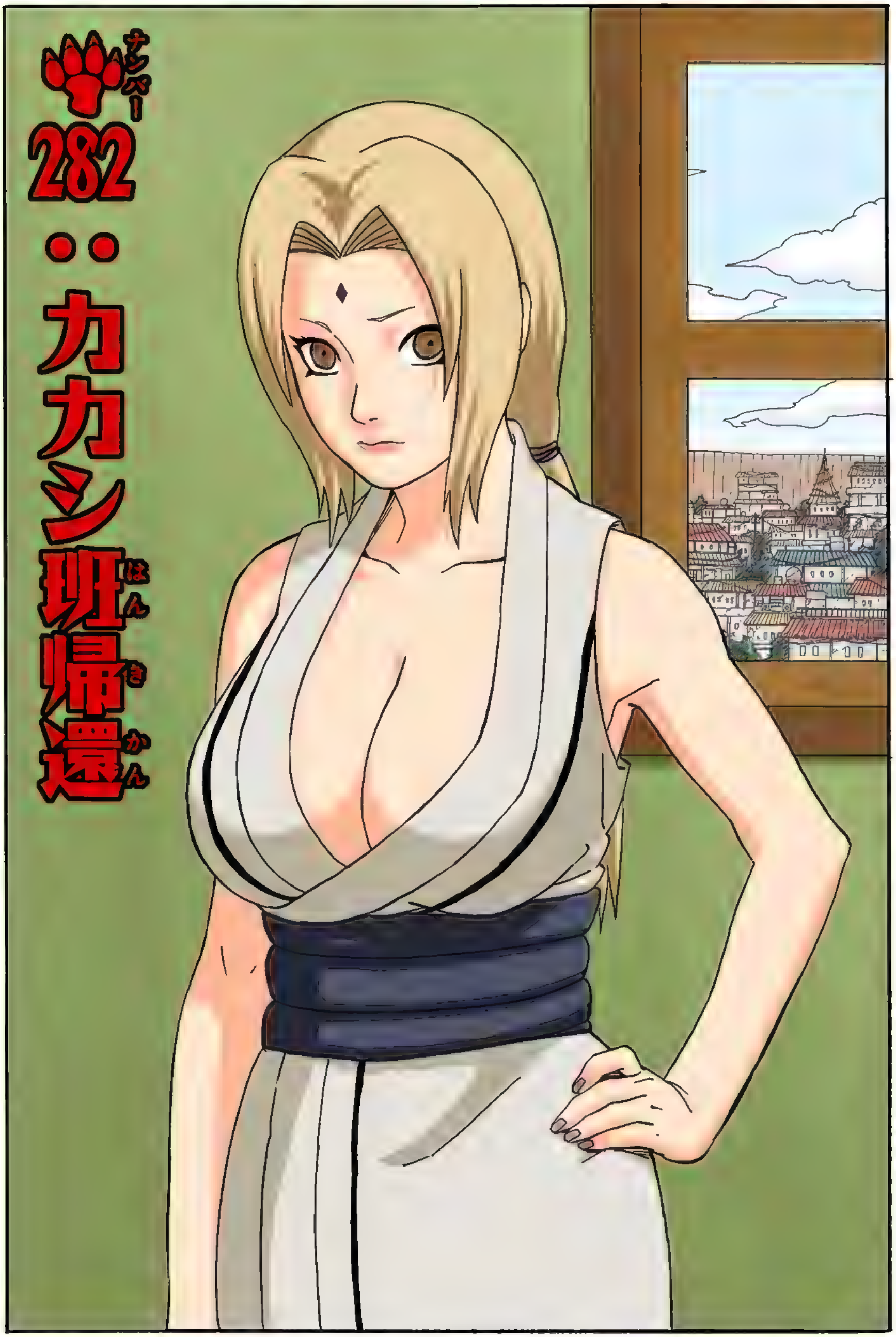
I'VE BEEN PRACTICING, BUT...

I GUESS I'M STILL NOT VERY GOOD...

..AT FACIAL EXPRESSIONS ...

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282: TEAM KAKASHI RETURNS



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UGH... AGAIN WITH THE BED REST...?

CAN YOU TRUST THE INFOR-MATION?

WHAT IF IT'S A TRAP?

(SIGNPOST: KONOHA HOSPITAL)

.....

...TO LURE US TO THIS TENCHI BRIDGE...

...WHERE THEY'LL AMBUSH US...?

MAYBE THE AKATSUKI IS USING OROCHIMARU'S NAME AS BAIT...

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.....

IF IT *IS* A TRAP ...

...THEN WE FIGHT!

AND THERE ARE ONLY SIX DAYS LEFT UNTIL THE RENDEZVOUS ...

...SO THE ONLY SOLUTION IS TO ASSEMBLE A NEW TEAM...

YES, BUT KAKASHI WILL BE OUT OF COMMISSION FOR OVER A WEEK NOW.

AND EVEN IF YOU DECIDE TO SEND SAKURA ALONG WITH THEM...

IN THAT CASE, WHY NOT JUST DEPLOY A DIFFERENT CELL?

WHAT IS IT?

LADY TSU-NADE ...

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.....

...I FEEL NARUTO SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THIS MISSION ...!

.....

THIS MISSION MUST INVOLVE THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF TEAM KAKASHI.

..SAKURA IS AMONG THE VERY FEW SHINOBI THAT I TRUST IMPLICITLY.

LIKE YOU, SHIZUNE ...

FRANKLY ...? NO.

YOU DON'T THINK MY TEAM CAN HANDLE IT?

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SASUKE IS NOT MERELY THEIR FORMER TEAMMATE. HE'S THEIR *FRIEND.*

IT'S *PERSONAL.*

THIS IS MORE THAN JUST A MISSION TO TEAM KAKASHI.

……?

……

…AND WHY YOU AND YOUR TEAM, SHIZUNE, MIGHT NOT.

THEY'VE PLEDGED THEIR LIVES TO RESCUING HIM, THEIR DESIRE TO HONOR THAT PLEDGE IS WHY THEY *WILL* SUCCEED…

?

WHAT DO YOU THINK *NARUTO* …

…WOULD SAY ABOUT THAT?

BUT I STILL THINK NARUTO…

UNDER-STOOD.

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I'D SAY WE GOTTA GET SOME ***NEW*** TEAM-MATES!

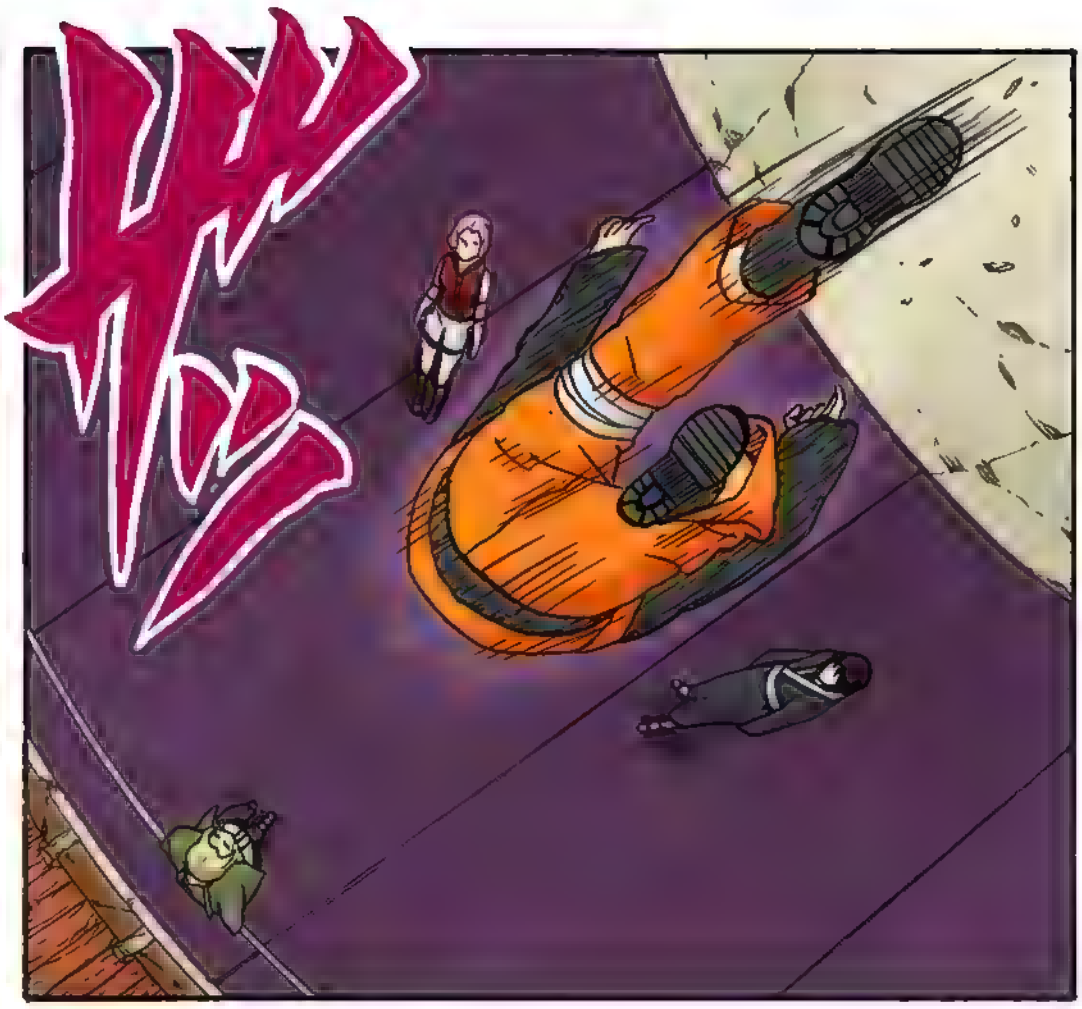
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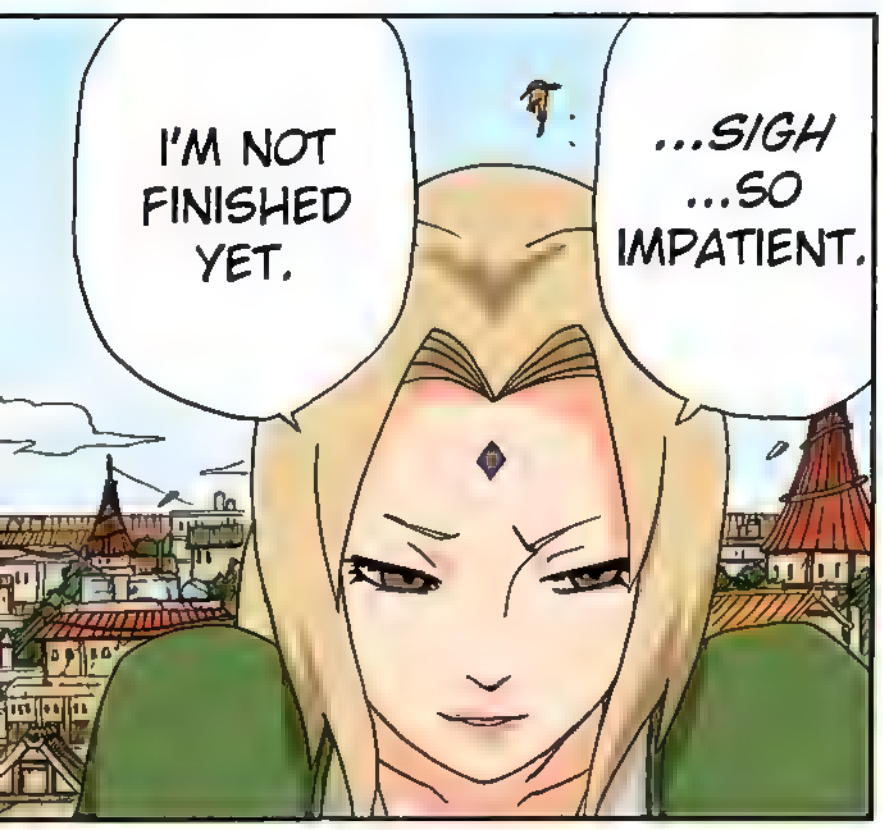
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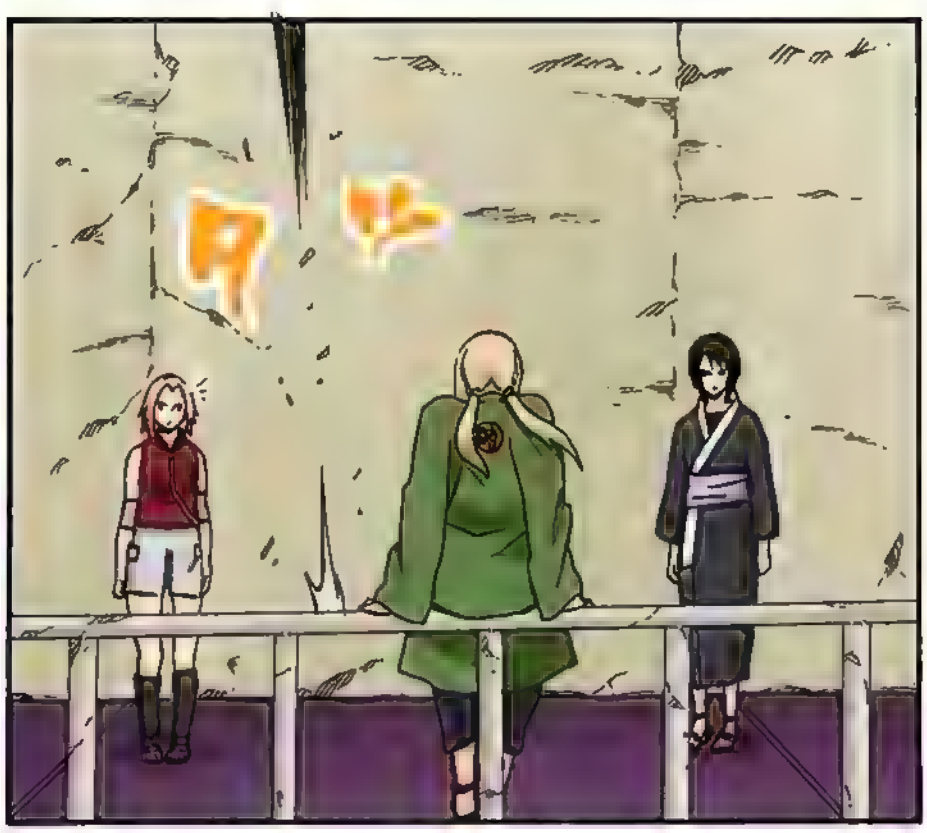
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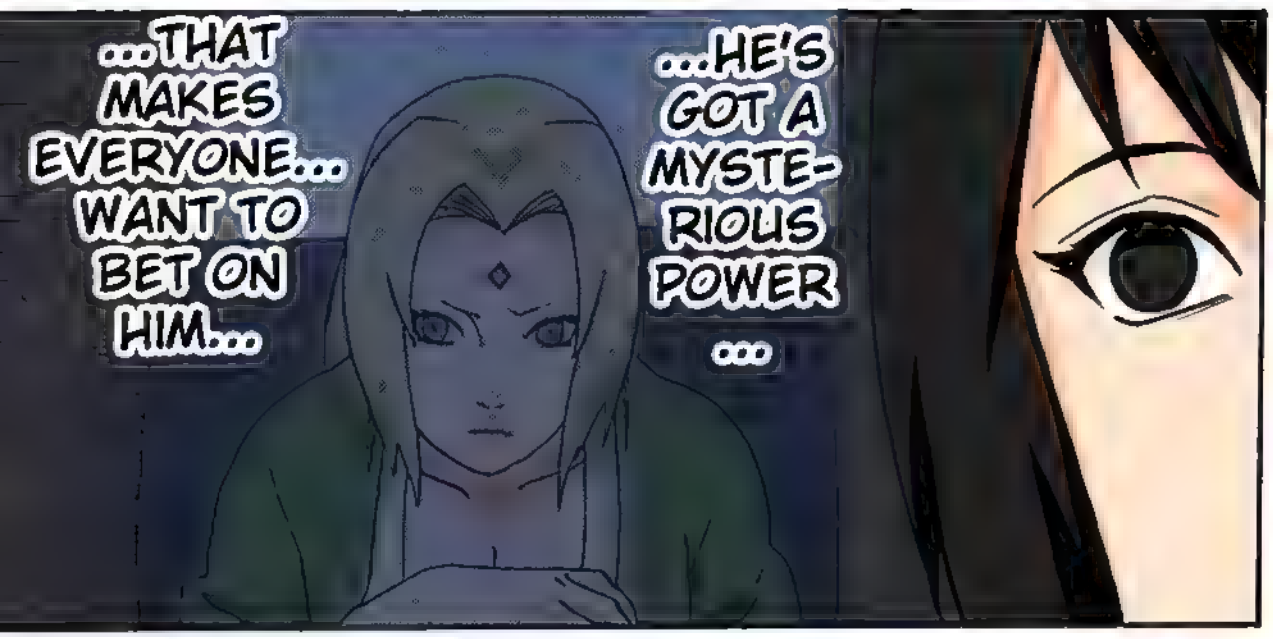
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...MAYBE NARUTO REALLY IS A SPECIAL SHILD...

SHE DID BESTOW ON HIM THE FIRST HOKAGE'S NECKLACE ...

TO BE HOKAGE IS MY DREAM...

...YES, MILADY ...

PLEASE INFORM NARUTO.

WE WILL FILL THE TWO VACANCIES LEFT BY KAKASHI AND SASUKE.

TSUNADE ...

!

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.....

COME WITH ME, PLEASE.

WE NEED TO TALK.

ﾀﾝ

SASUKE.....

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ACTU-ALLY...

...WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING PERIODIC REPORTS FROM SHIZUNE.

.....

IN ADDITION, ASSIGN TWO ACCOMPLISHED SHINOBI TO REMAIN AT HIS SIDE AT ALL TIMES.

NOT ONLY WILL THIS SERVE TO BETTER PROTECT HIM, BUT IT WILL RESTORE TEAM KAKASHI TO THE REQUISITE FOUR-MAN CELL.

HENCE-FORTH, UZUMAKI NARUTO...

...MUST NOT BE DISPATCHED ON MISSIONS THAT MIGHT BRING HIM INTO CONTACT WITH THE AKATSUKI.

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.....

..THE MORE LIMITED THE SCOPE OF HIS ACTIVITIES, THE BETTER.

AND DO TRY TO CUT BACK AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE HIS OVERALL NUMBER OF MISSIONS...

HMM, I WONDER WHO WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE JOB ...?

LIKE I SAID, *DO I KNOW YOU?*

IT'S ME!

DO I... KNOW YOU?

?

LONG TIME NO SEE, NARUTO ...

FOLLOWED MANGA.COM

OR ELSE... IT JUST HURTS THE OTHER PERSON'S FEELINGS.

...HEY, I KNOW IT'S BEEN A WHILE...

...BUT YOU SHOULD AT LEAST TRY TO REMEMBER YOUR FRIENDS, YOU KNOW.

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SHINO ?!

I KNOW THAT IRRITATING VOICE!

DON'T TELL ME...

.....

FOOL, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO RECOGNIZE YOU WITH YOUR FACE HIDDEN LIKE THAT?

FINALLY ...YOU REMEM-BERED.

!

SHINO, YOU'RE EARLY!

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NARUTOANGA.COM

!

白土通り

COLORED
MANGANGA.COM

NARUTO, IT WAS YOU, AFTER ALL!

HEY!

K... KIBA?

.....

THAT'S WHAT YOU RECOGNIZED?!

...I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED YOUR SCENT!

ﾘｯ

.....

THAT DOG... HE CAN'T BE...

.....

WOOF!

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COME ON!

OF COURSE IT'S AKAMARU!

I DIDN'T KNOW DOGS COULD GET THAT BIG SO FAST.

ME...? AKAMARU'S THE ONE THAT GREW.

.....

BUT HEY... DID YOU GROW OR SOMETHING?!

HE USED TO SIT ON TOP OF YOUR HEAD!

HOW COULD YOU NOT NOTICE?!

...REALLY?

HEH, I GUESS I NEVER NOTICED BECAUSE HE'S ALWAYS WITH ME...

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...
NARUTO.

YOU RECOG-NIZED KIBA RIGHT AWAY...

.....

RIGHT, SHINO?

EEK!

...SHOOT
...NOW HE'S MAD AT ME...

.....

.....

!

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HUF

BA-DUMP

HUF

BA-DUMP

HUF

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OH DEAR... I'M NOT PREPARED...

I HEARD HE'D RETURNED, BUT...

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN THREE YEARS, SO... WHAT DO I EVEN SAY TO HIM...? UM... UM...

W... WAS THAT REALLY NARUTO ...?!

.....

ARE YOU HIDING OVER HERE?

OH, IT'S YOU, HINATA!

YOU ALSO RECOGNIZED HINATA RIGHT AWAY...

...

NARUTO.

EVER NOTICE HOW SHE ALWAYS FAINTS IN FRONT OF NARUTO?

UH... HINATA ?!

WHY'RE YOU FALLING DOWN?

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ナンバー

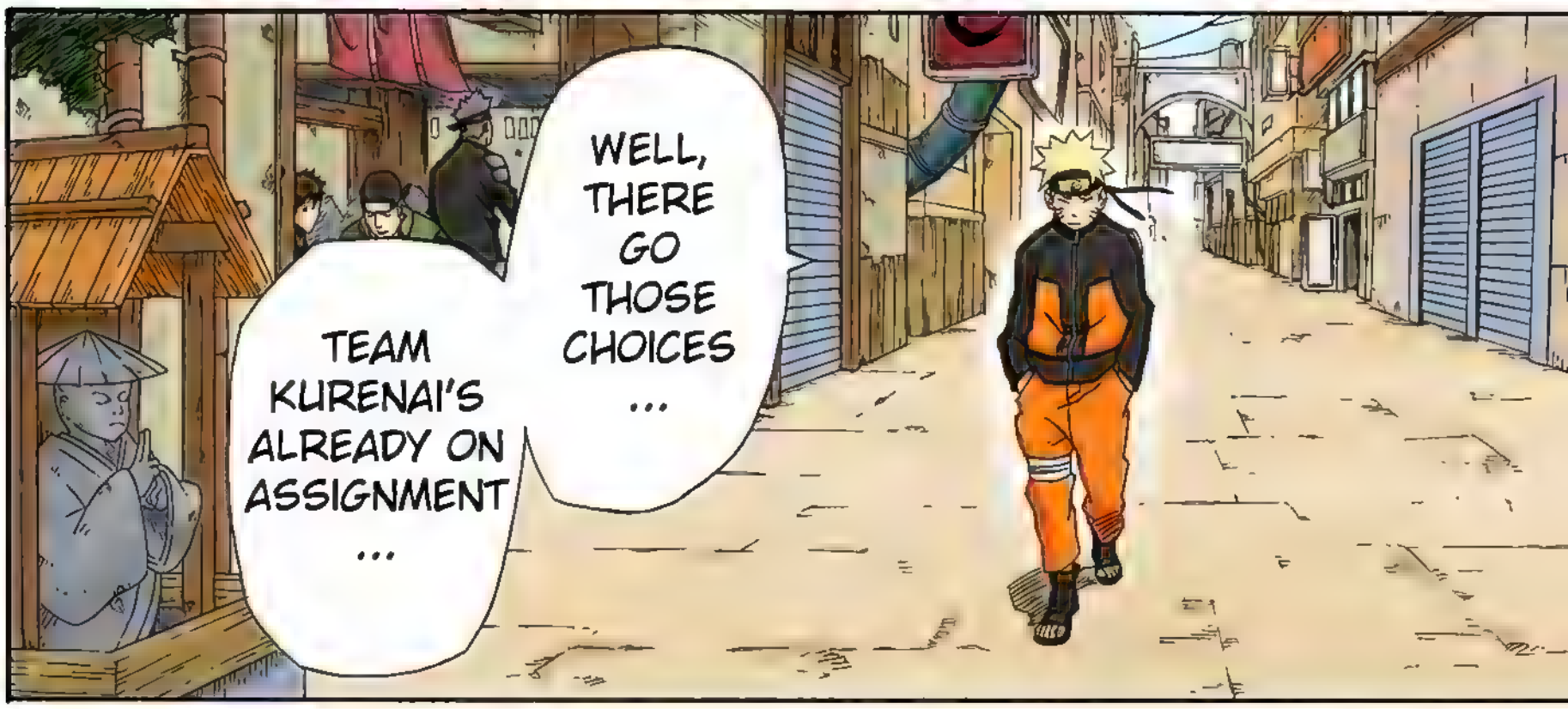
283：

メンバー探(さが)し!!

283: TEAM MEMBERS WANTED!!

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(SIGN: CHUNIN EXAM PLANNING COMMITTEE)

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IT'S A HUGE BOTHER, BUT I'M ON THE STAFF FOR THE CHUNIN EXAM.

...I *TOLD* YOU...

AND AFTER MY MOM, THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH FEMALE SCOLDING I CAN TAKE.

...IT'S THE FIFTH HOKAGE'S ORDERS ...

...I'M NOT IN A POSITION WHERE I CAN JUST DO WHATEVER I LIKE.

YOU HAVE TO UNDER-STAND...

I MEAN... I KNOW WE GO WAY BACK...

...AND I REALLY DO WANT TO HELP YOU OUT, BUT...

!

!

THEN ALLOW ***ME*** TO PICK UP THE SLACK.

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HEY, SHIKA-MARU!

HERE'S THAT LUNCH BOX YOUR MOM ASKED ME TO DELIVER.

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I THOUGHT YOU WERE ON ASSIGNMENT WITH MASTER ASUMA AND INO?

CHOJI ...

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

CHOJI!

THANKS CHOJI!!

I CAN ASK MASTER ASUMA FOR ADVICE.

YEAH, BUT I CAN'T JUST LEAVE NARUTO HANGING.

..LADY TSUNADE IS STILL HIS SUPERIOR ...

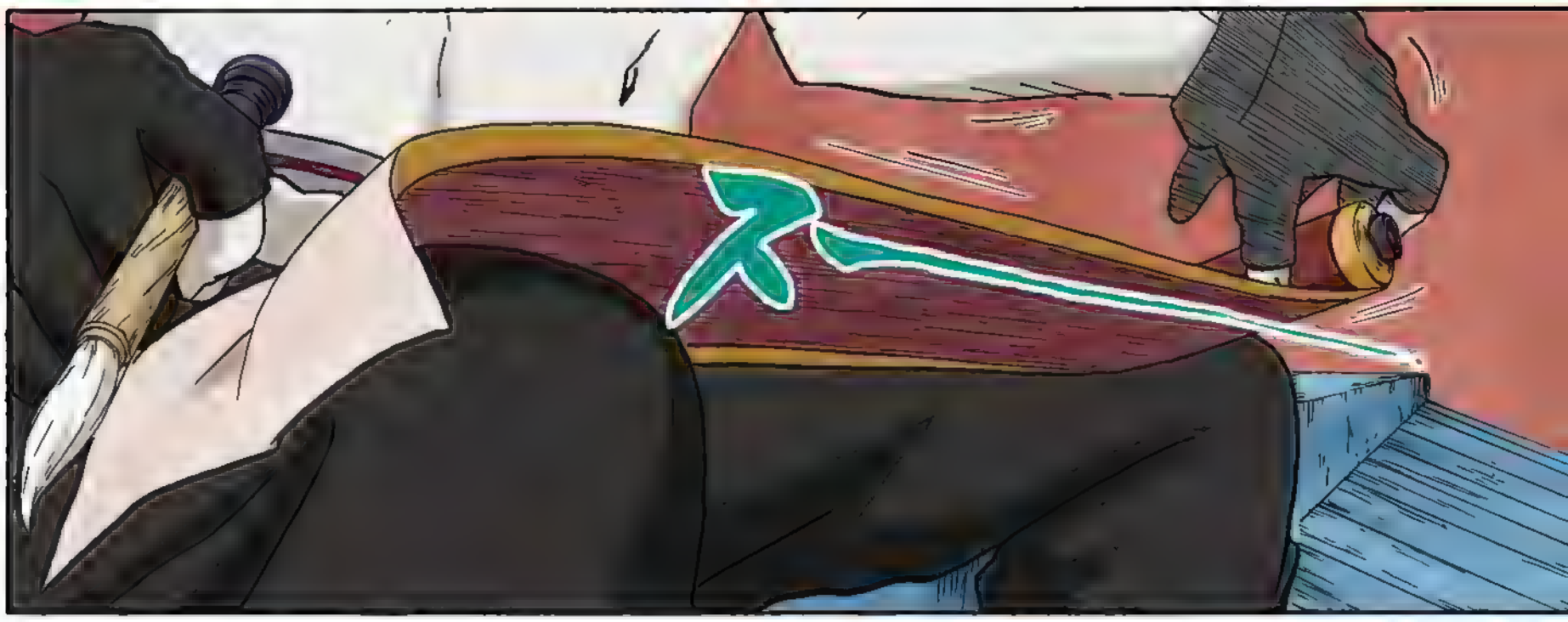
I'M TELLING YOU... IT'S USELESS TO ASK ASUMA...

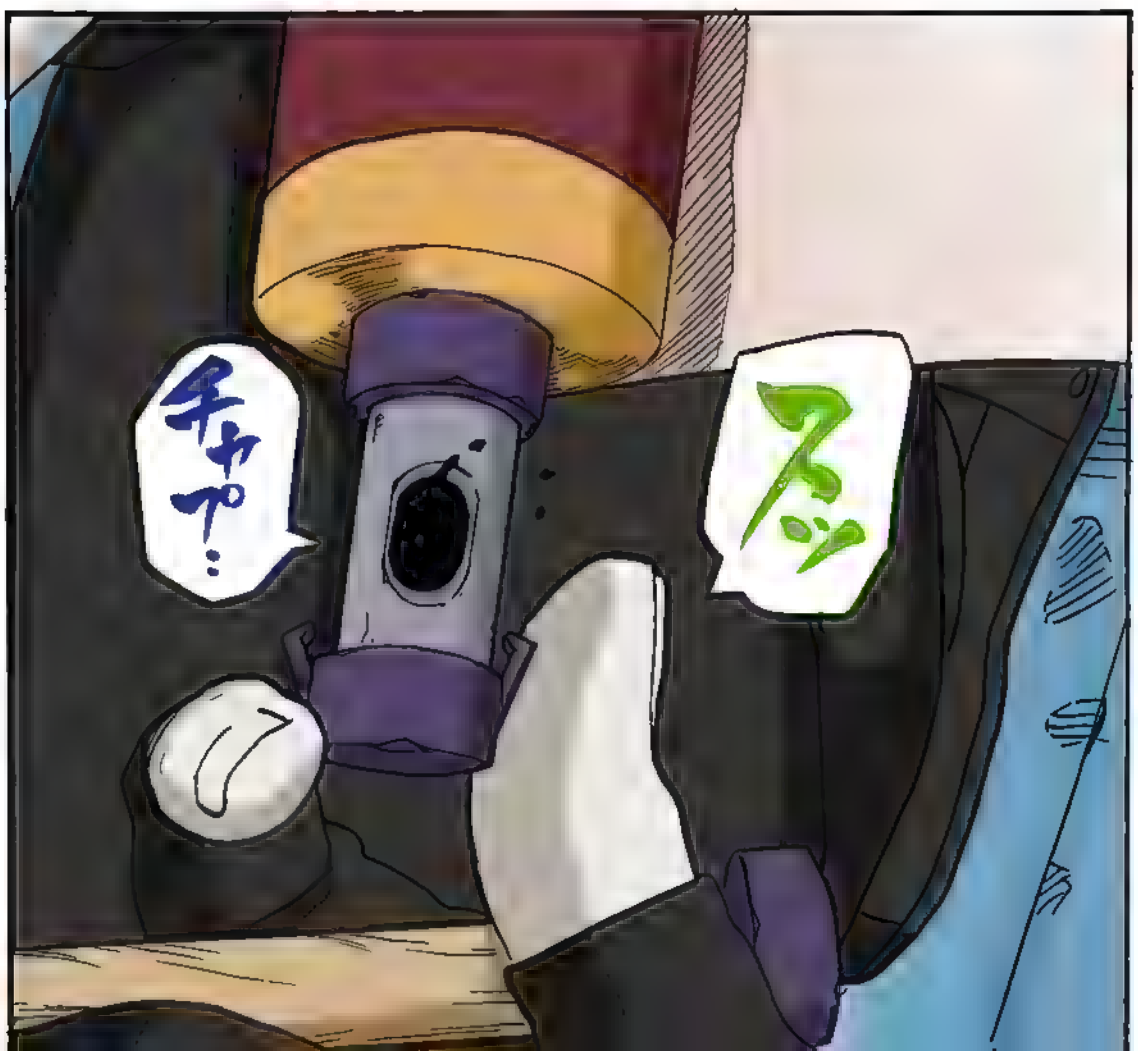
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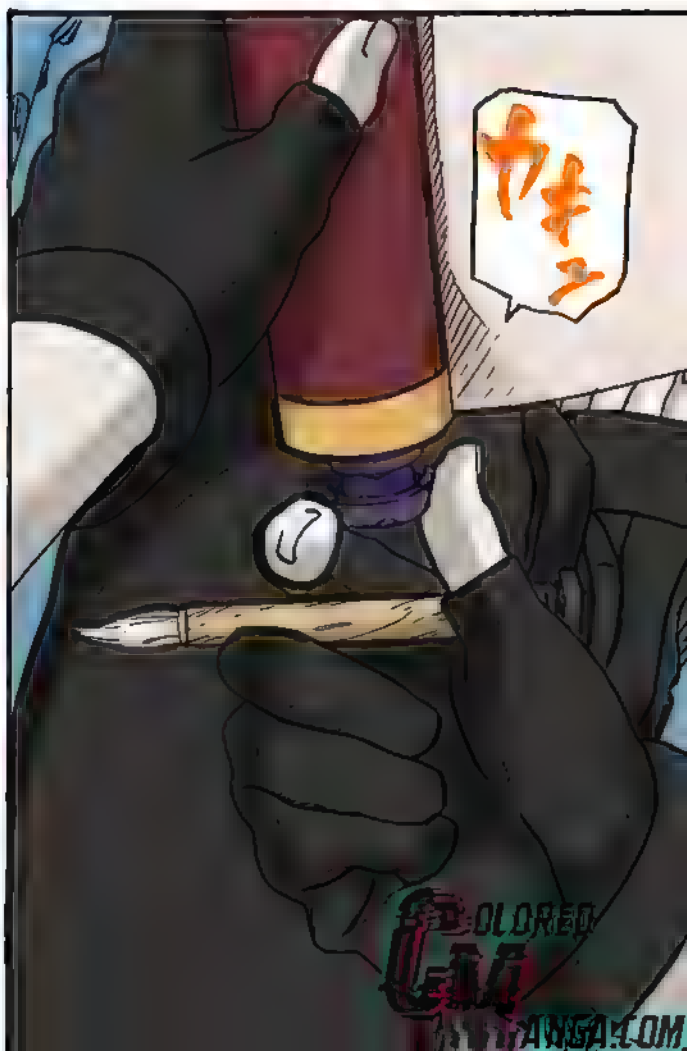

キュポッ


キュイキュイ






キュッ!
スッ


カキ

HEH HEH... ALWAYS EATING, JUST LIKE OLD TIMES.

DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS POSSIBLE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE EVEN GAINED WEIGHT.

HEY...!

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中忍試験
準備委員会
ドン
YAH!
!

ドン

中忍試験
準備委員会

ドゥキ々々

バ

!

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ドーン

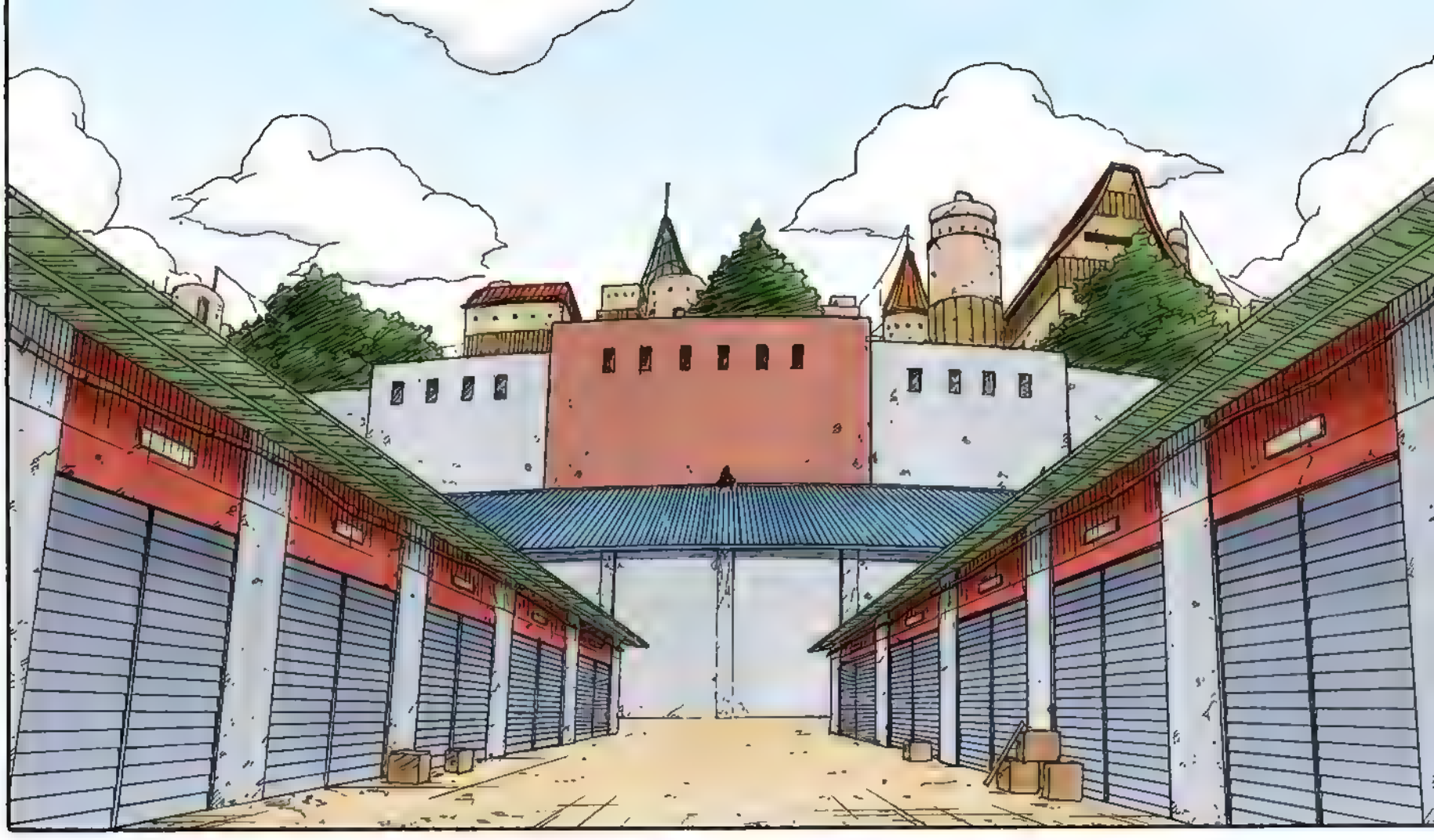
ボヨヨ…

LOOK! OVER THERE …

!

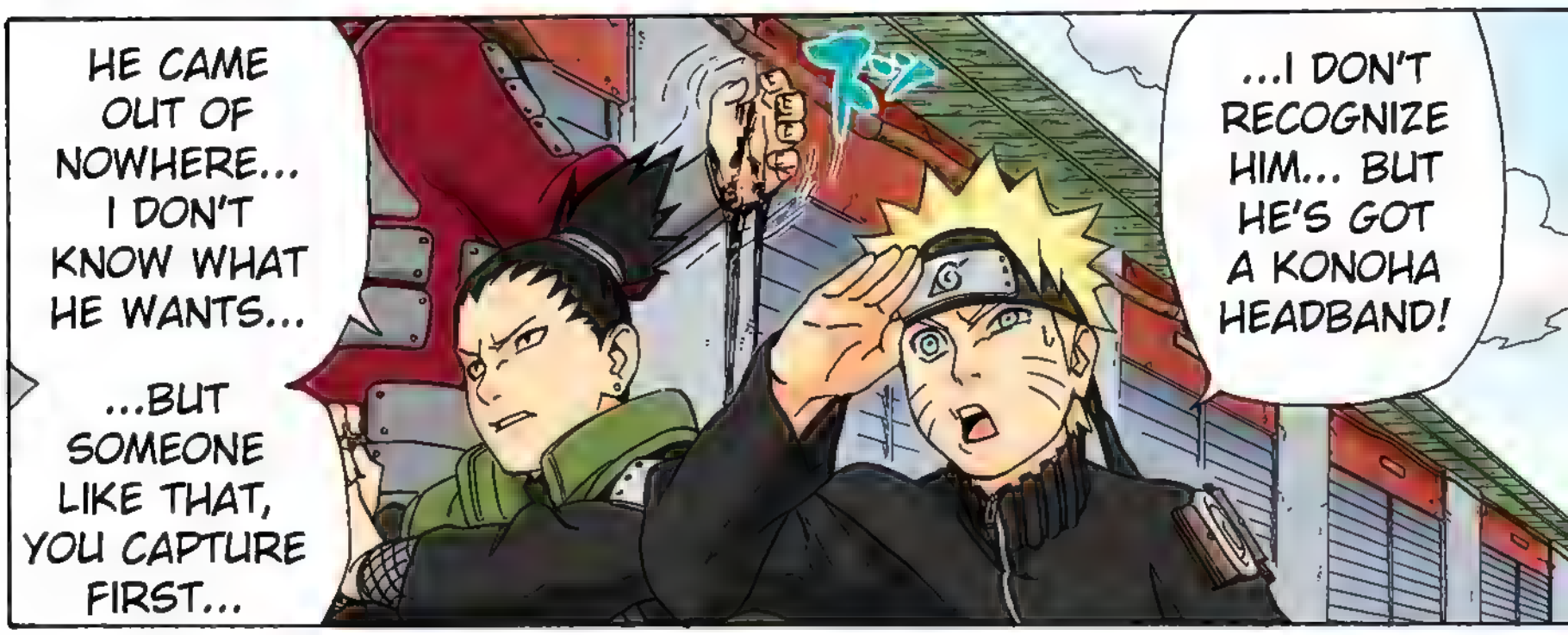
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HE CAME OUT OF NOWHERE... I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE WANTS...
...BUT SOMEONE LIKE THAT, YOU CAPTURE FIRST...
...I DON'T RECOGNIZE HIM... BUT HE'S GOT A KONOHA HEADBAND!

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…AND THEN HAND OVER TO THE TORTURE AND INTERRO-GATION CORPS!

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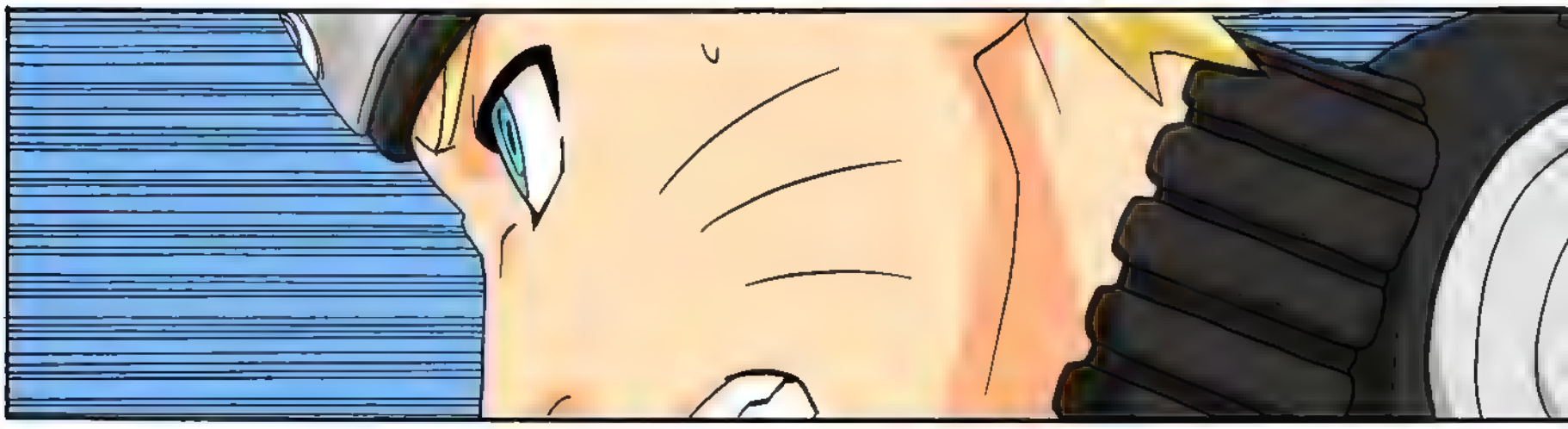
OK!

GO!

NARUTO, I'LL COVER YOU!

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ドン




THE
ART OF
CARTOON
MIMICRY!!


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!

KEEP MOVING, NARUTO!

THE ART OF SHADOW STITCH-ING!!

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MANGA.COM

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A







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ナンバー 284 : THE NEW CELL...!!



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ABSO-LUTELY NOT!

HE IS A JINCHU-RIKI.

TSUNADE ...

...NARUTO IS NO ORDINARY CHILD.

I'M IN FAVOR OF USING THE FOUR-MAN CELL MODEL FOR HIS TEAM, BUT YOU CANNOT IMPOSE ANY MORE RESTRICTIONS ON NARUTO!

...AND KEEP HIM UNDER SURVEILLANCE AT ALL TIMES.

NORMALLY, WE WOULD NEVER EVEN SEND HIM OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE...

SO WE'RE ALREADY OFFERING YOU A COMPROMISE.

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...AND IT'LL BE SUNAGAKURE ALL OVER AGAIN... HOWEVER...

...A MOVING'S TARGET IS HARDEST TO HIT, WHICH IS WHY WE MUST KEEP NARUTO IN THE FIELD AS LONG AND AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE.

SOONER OR LATER, THE AKATSUKI ***WILL*** COME FOR HIM...

SO LONG AS NARUTO REMAINS IN ONE PLACE, ALL OF KONOHA IS IN DANGER.

NARUTO ***DOES*** HAVE TALENT.

SOMEDAY HE WILL BE A GREAT ASSET TO KONOHA.

.....

ガシ

SOMEDAY... THAT... IS YOUR ARGUMENT, TSUNADE?

AND YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO CALL YOURSELF HOKAGE?

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LOOK! I'M TRYING TO COMPROMISE HERE, TOO!!

TELL ME, *LADY HOKAGE...* WHAT GUARANTEES CAN YOU GIVE...

...THAT SUCH A TRAGEDY WILL NEVER COME TO PASS?!

COMPROMISE... WILL NOT SPARE THE LIVES OF THE CITIZENS OF THIS VILLAGE...

...ONCE THE AKATSUKI HAVE EXTRACTED THE NINE TAILS FROM NARUTO.

...

DREAMS AND EVERY-THING ELSE IS GONE!!

IF YOU DIE... EVERY-THING ...

...THAT BAD LUCK NECK-LACE AROUND YOUR NECK... I'M GONNA TAKE IT...

AS PROM-ISED IN OUR BET...

.....

COLORED MANGA.COM

!!

...
IT'S OKAY
...

...
HEH
...

RUN!

GET OUT OF THE WAY!!

A CHARM TO MAKE YOUR DREAM COME TRUE.

...THERE'S NO WAY I'M GONNA DIE!!

UNTIL I BECOME HOKAGE...

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.....

I BELIEVE IN HIM.

NARUTO ...WILL NOT FALL!



.....

AND IF YOU ARE MISTAKEN ...?

WHAT THEN?

...AND SUBSE-QUENTLY THE LAND OF FIRE, ARE ENDANGERED BECAUSE OF ME...

IF... KONOHA-GAKURE ...



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THEN I SWEAR, AS THE FIFTH HOKAGE, TO PROTECT THEM WITH ALL MY MIGHT.

AND MY VERY OWN LIFE...

.....

.....

.....

COLORED MANGA.COM

...WHO ARE TO JOIN TEAM KAKASHI.

...WE SHALL SELECT THE ADDITIONAL SHINOBI...

TO HONOR YOUR FAITH IN HIM, NARUTO SHALL BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN ACTIVE DUTY... HOWEVER ...

AS YOU WISH, THEN... A COMPRO-MISE...

...

ENTER! DANZO...

DONE.

.....

!

CLATTER

COLORED MANGA.COM

...
DANZO
...

HELLO, PRINCESS. BEEN A LONG TIME...

...THEN THAT MUST MEAN ONE OF THE NEW TEAM MEMBERS ...

IF YOU'RE HERE...

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MANGA.COM

.....

...IS FROM *THE FOUNDATION* OF THE BLACK OPS?

SPILL IT! WHO *ARE* YOU?!

KA-CHING

SWISH

!

COLORED MANGA.COM

IN DUE TIME, NARUTO. ALL IN DUE TIME...

HEY, WAIT !!

CHOJI! HOW'D I KNOW I'D FIND YOU HERE ...?!

WHO WAS THAT GUY...?

.....

.....

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HEY!

ASUMA-SENSEI'S LOOKING FOR YOU!

COLORED MANGA.COM

SOME WEIRDO JUST SUDDENLY ATTACKED US...

SORRY, INO...

.....

WEIRDO?

SAVE YOUR BREATH, CHOJI. IT'S SO NOT WORTH IT...

HEY, NARUTO!! LONG TIME NO SEE!

NO, NO... NOT HIM...! UHH...

WHO? NARUTO ...?

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THEY WILL HAVE TO LEAVE BEFORE KAKASHI FINISHES RECUPERATING ...

...TEAM KAKASHI WILL NEED ONE MORE MEMBER.

...THEN THE CHOICE IS CLEAR... YOU REQUIRE AN EXCEPTIONALLY DISTINGUISHED COMMANDER...

...ONE FROM AMONG THE BLACK OPS, ASSIGNED DIRECTLY TO THE HOKAGE HERSELF.

AND THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME BETWEEN NOW AND THEN.

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO *THAT*, DO YOU, TSUNADE?

YES!

THAT IS ACCEPT-ABLE.

..THAT'S WHY I NEED YOU TO FILL IN FOR YOUR PREDECESSOR.

...AND SO...

.....

KAKASHI-SENPAI...? THOSE ARE HUGE SHOES TO FILL.

I AM GREATLY HONORED.

WHILE ON THIS MISSION, YOU WILL CALL YOURSELF ***YAMATO.***

THERE-FORE, YOU MUST REMOVE YOUR MASK...

...AND BE ASSIGNED A CODE NAME.

UNDERSTAND THIS WILL NOT BE A BLACK OPS MISSION...

...BUT A REGULAR MISSION.

COLORED
NARUTOMANGA.COM

UNDER-STOOD.

YOU MUST...

YES?

...A NEW FACE FROM *THE FOUNDATION*, THE BLACK OPS TRAINING DIVISION...

...IS ALSO ASSIGNED TO TEAM KAKASHI.

...THERE'S ONE OTHER THING...

...AND ...THE REASON FOR THIS?

...KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON HIM.

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AND DANZO ...

...IS NOT ONLY A MEMBER OF THE HAWK FACTION THAT ONCE OPPOSED THE THIRD HOKAGE...

DANZO SELECTED THIS NEWCOMER.

THOUGH THE FOUNDATION HAS SINCE BEEN DISSOLVED, AND DANZO REMOVED...

...I CANT HELP BUT BE SUSPICIOUS OF HIS MOTIVES.

...BUT ALSO THE FOUNDER OF A SEPARATE DETAIL WITHIN THE BLACK OPS ...

...A TRAINING DIVISION KNOWN AS ***THE FOUNDATION.***

SURELY YOU'VE HEARD OF HIM...

PERHAPS ... BUT NO MATTER ...

GO. JOIN YOUR NEW CELL.

YES, MA'AM!

.....

NO DISRESPECT, MILADY... BUT MIGHT YOU BE OVERREACT-ING...?

COLORED BY NARUTOFANGA.COM

Y-

YOU!

HELLO AGAIN ...

.....

SO... UM... STARTING TODAY...

...I'LL BE FILLING IN FOR KAKASHI...

!

COLORED MANGA.COM

...AND WHETHER OR NOT I'D EVENTUALLY HAVE TO COME TO THE LITTLE BOY'S AID.

I WAS JUST CURIOUS TO SEE HOW STRONG MY FUTURE TEAMMATE MIGHT BE...

SORRY ABOUT OUR ENCOUNTER.

NARUTO, YOU KNOW THIS GUY?

REALLY?

BUT I LIKE UGLY GIRLS LIKE YOU.

...THAT WASN'T VERY NICE...

...AND YOU...

HEY! WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER! SO DON'T FIGHT RIGHT FROM THE GET-GO!

WHAT ?!

WHOA! EASY, SAKURA! FOLLOW YOUR OWN ADVICE!

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!

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ナンバー

285：THE FOUNDATION



COLORED MANGA.COM

...SO, UM... WHY DON'T YOU GUYS GO AHEAD...

...AND INTRO-DUCE YOUR-SELVES.

...WE REALLY DON'T HAVE TIME TO SOCIAL-IZE.

ANYWAY ...

...SINCE WE'RE GOING TO BE DEPLOYING ALMOST IMMEDIATELY...

I AM SAI.

I'M HARUNO SAKURA.

UZUMAKI NARUTO.

...LET ME EXPLAIN OUR MISSION.

ALL RIGHT, NOW THAT THAT'S OVER WITH...

COLORED MANGA.COM

THE FOUR OF US WILL HEAD TO TENCHI BRIDGE...

...CAPTURE THE AKATSUKI SPY WHO HAS INFILTRATED OROCHIMARU'S ORGANIZATION, AND BRING HIM OR HER BACK HERE.

...TO GAIN INTELLIGENCE ON OROCHIMARU AND UCHIHA SASUKE...

THIS IS OUR BEST CHANCE ...

SO KEEP THAT IN MIND!

...AND SASUKE'S RETRIEVAL.

...INFORMATION WE CAN THEN USE TO PLAN OROCHIMARU'S ASSASSINATION...

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AS SOON AS EVERYONE'S GEAR IS ALL PACKED...

...RENDEZVOUS AT THE MAIN GATE.

THEN WE'LL DEPART!

THAT JERK SAI... I ALREADY CAN'T STAND HIM!

WHY DOES *HE* HAVE TO BE SASUKE'S REPLACEMENT ...?

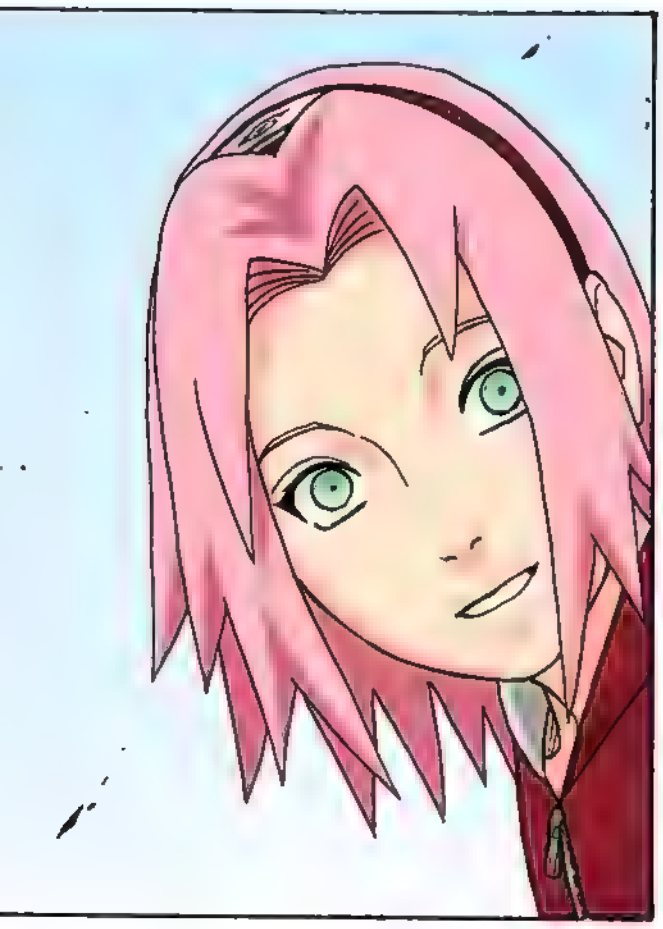
TEAM KAKASHI IS FINE WITH JUST THE THREE OF US!

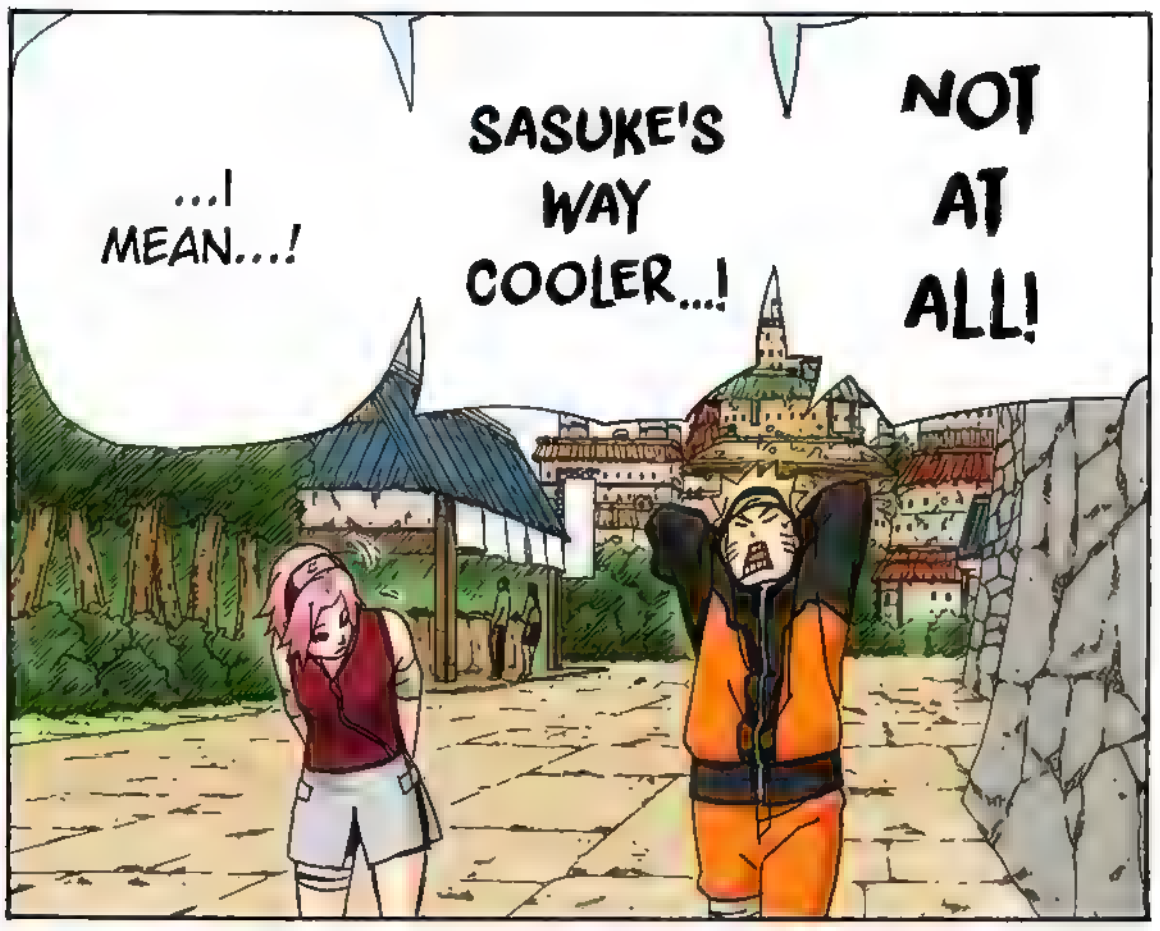
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HE IS RUDE... AND HE'S GOT A FOUL MOUTH... BUT... THERE IS SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT HIM.

HIS FACE... HIS VOICE... THEY KIND OF REMIND ME OF SASUKE ...

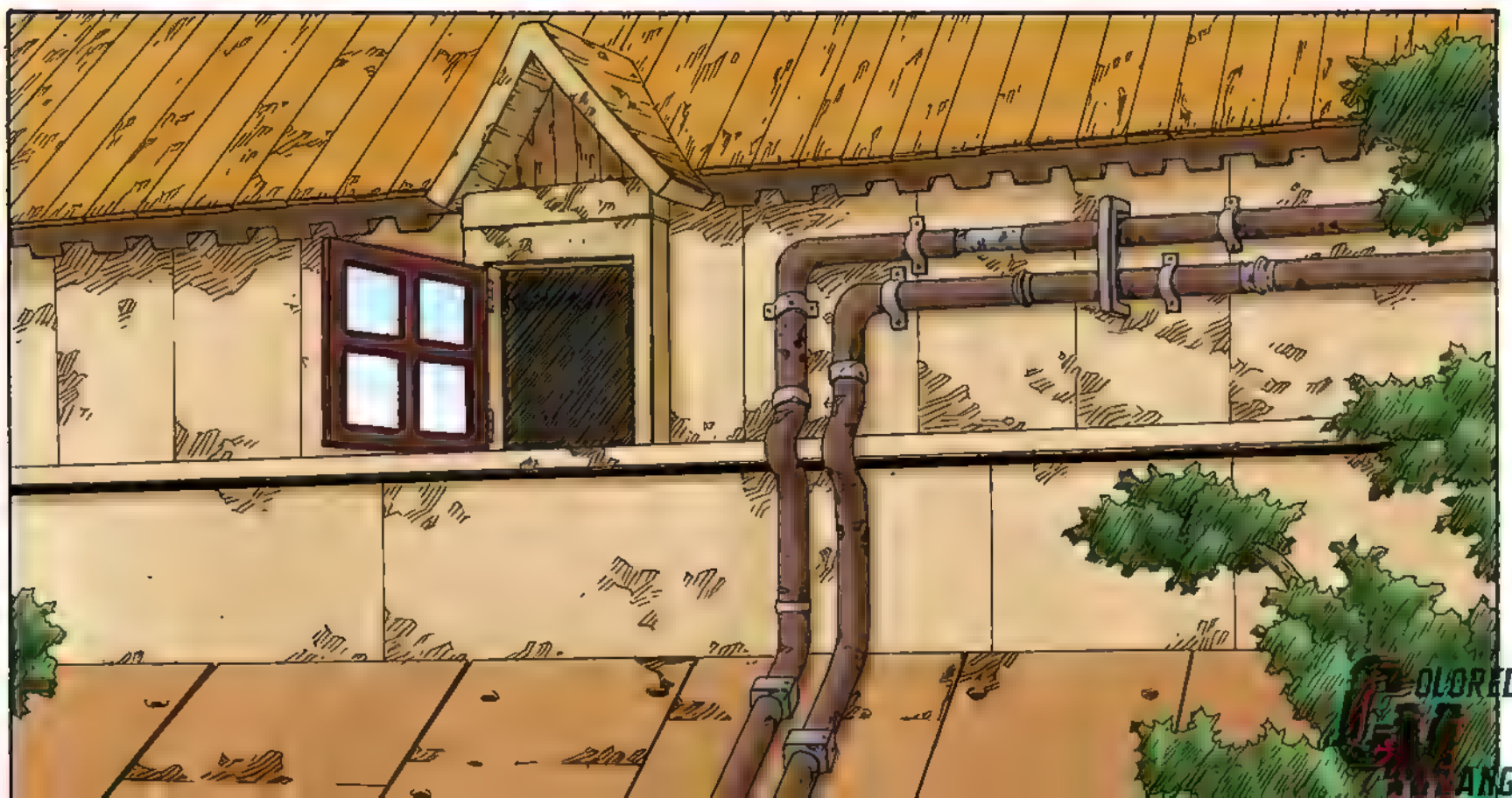
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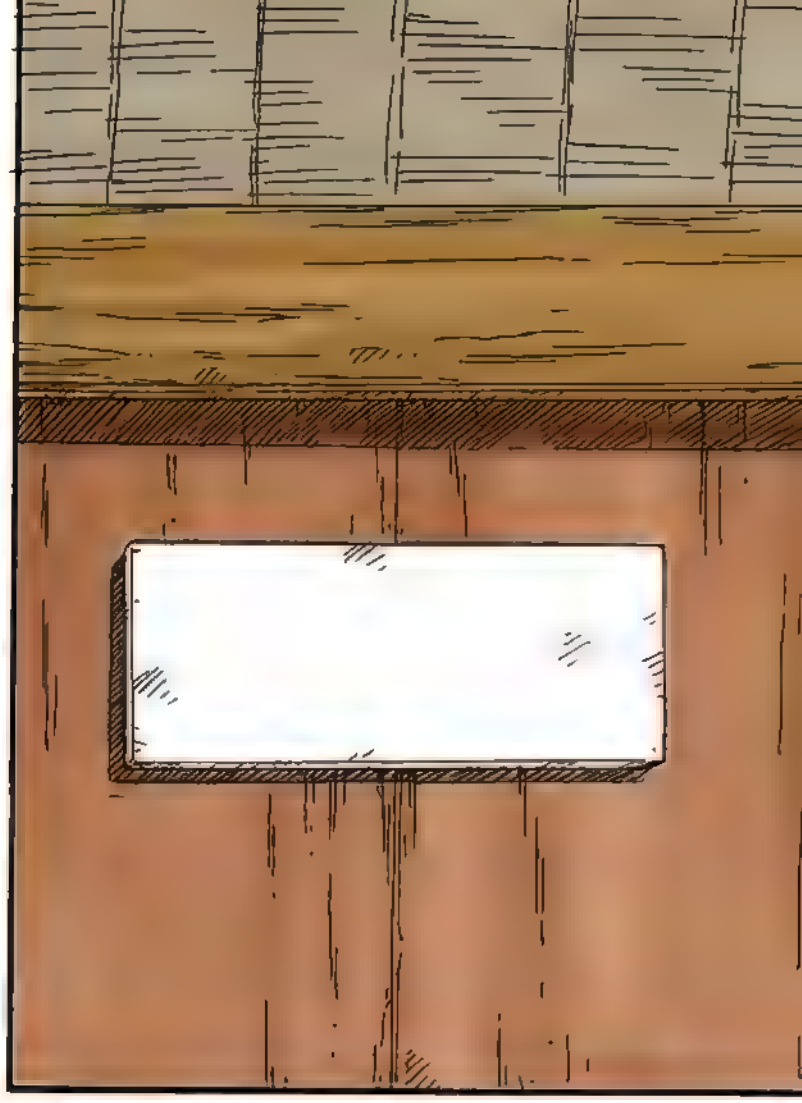

...I MEAN...!
SASUKE'S WAY COOLER...!
NOT AT ALL!

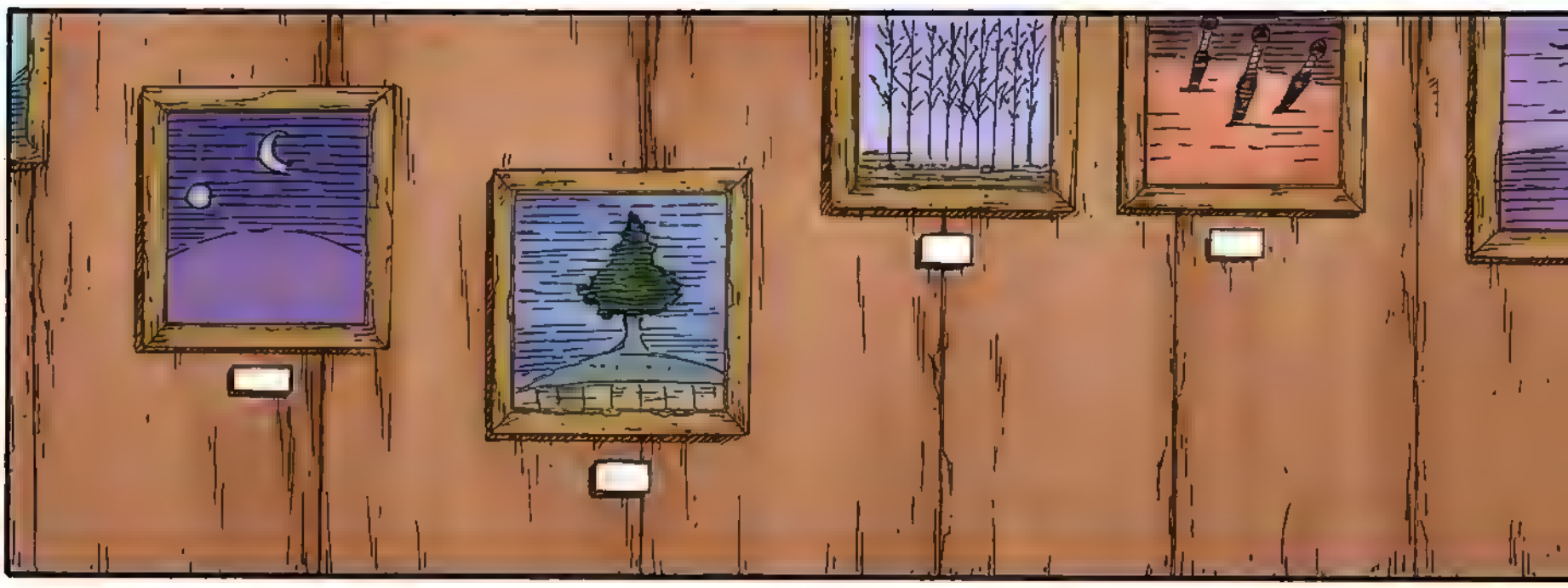

SASUKE'S A BAZILLION TIMES BETTER!!
MORE THAN JUST A LITTLE!
YOU'RE RIGHT. SASUKE IS A LITTLE COOLER THAN SAI.


.....


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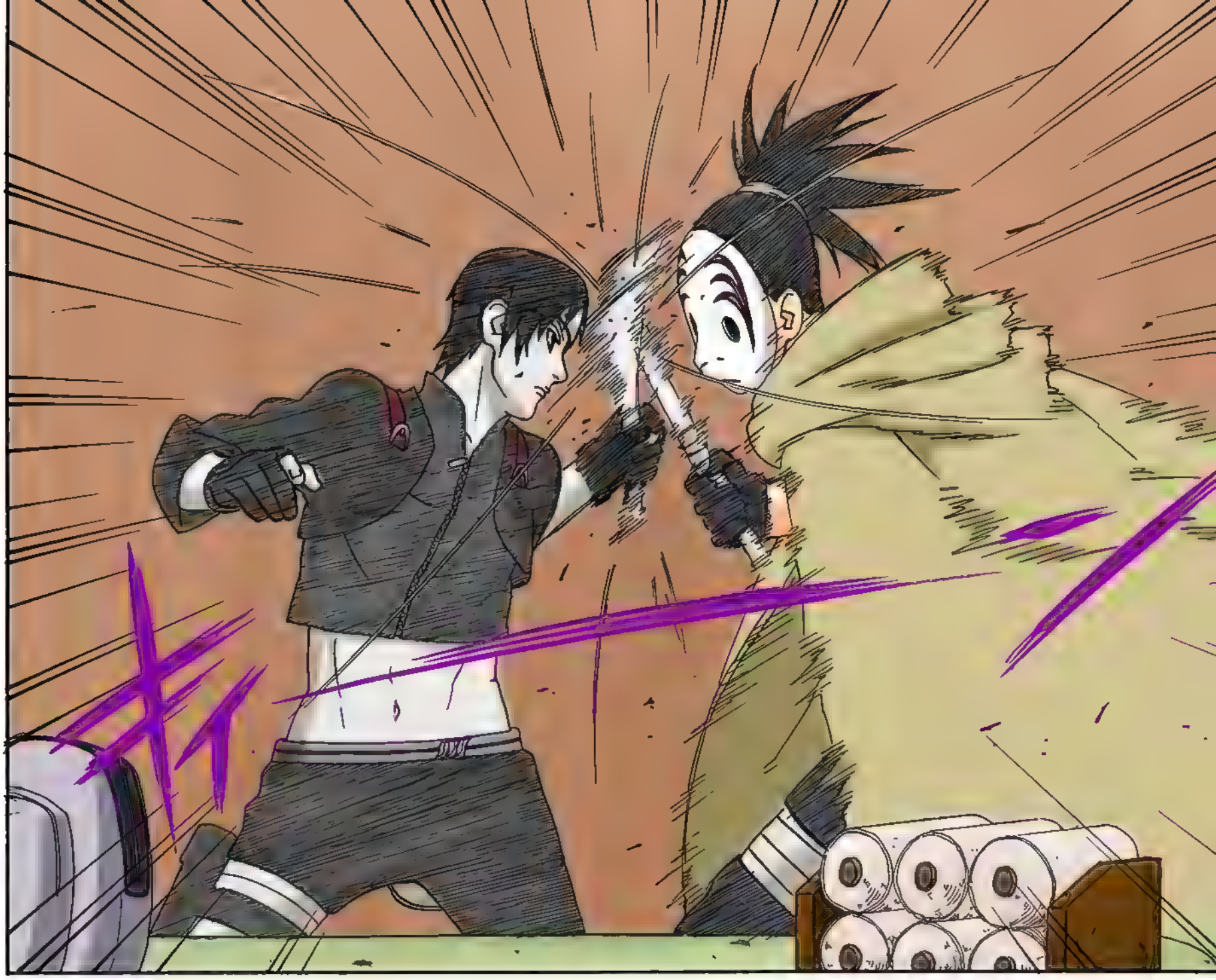
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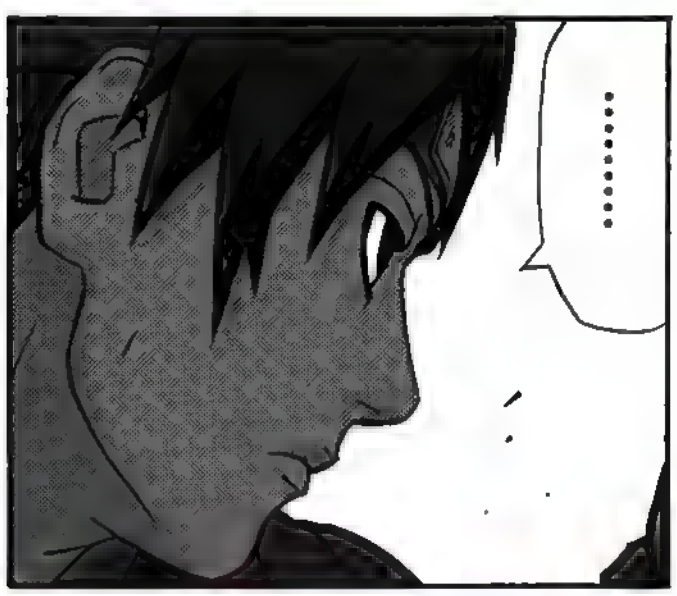
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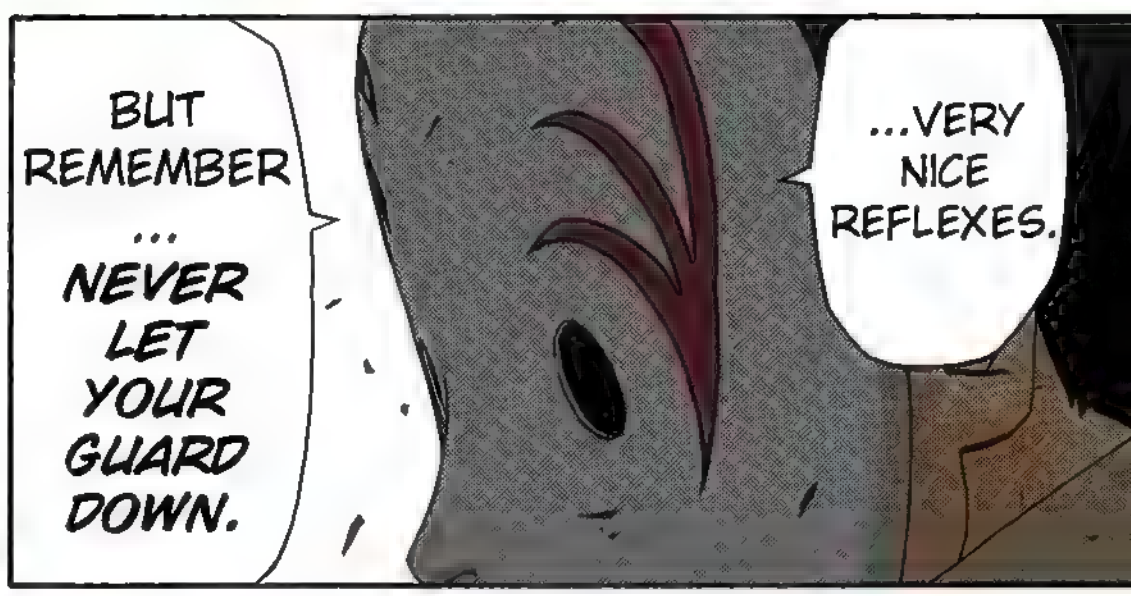
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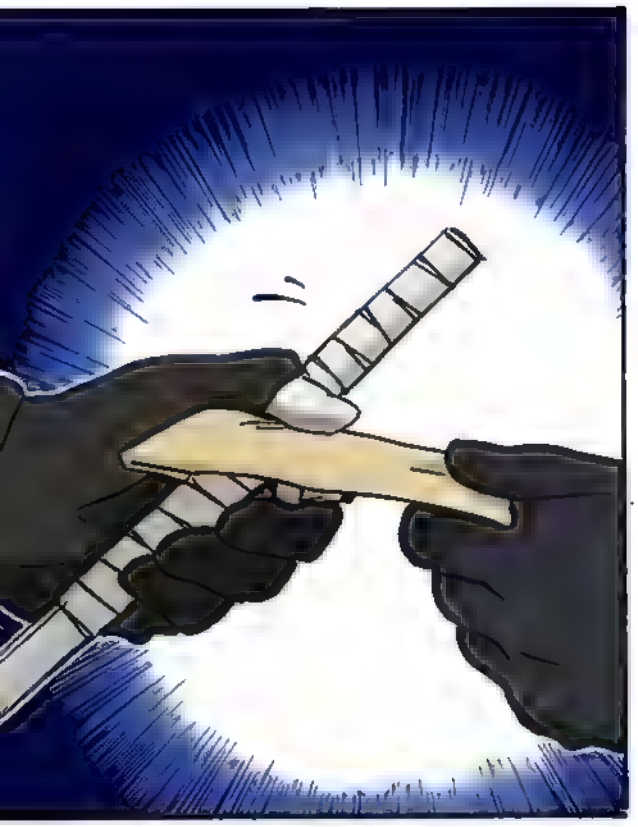
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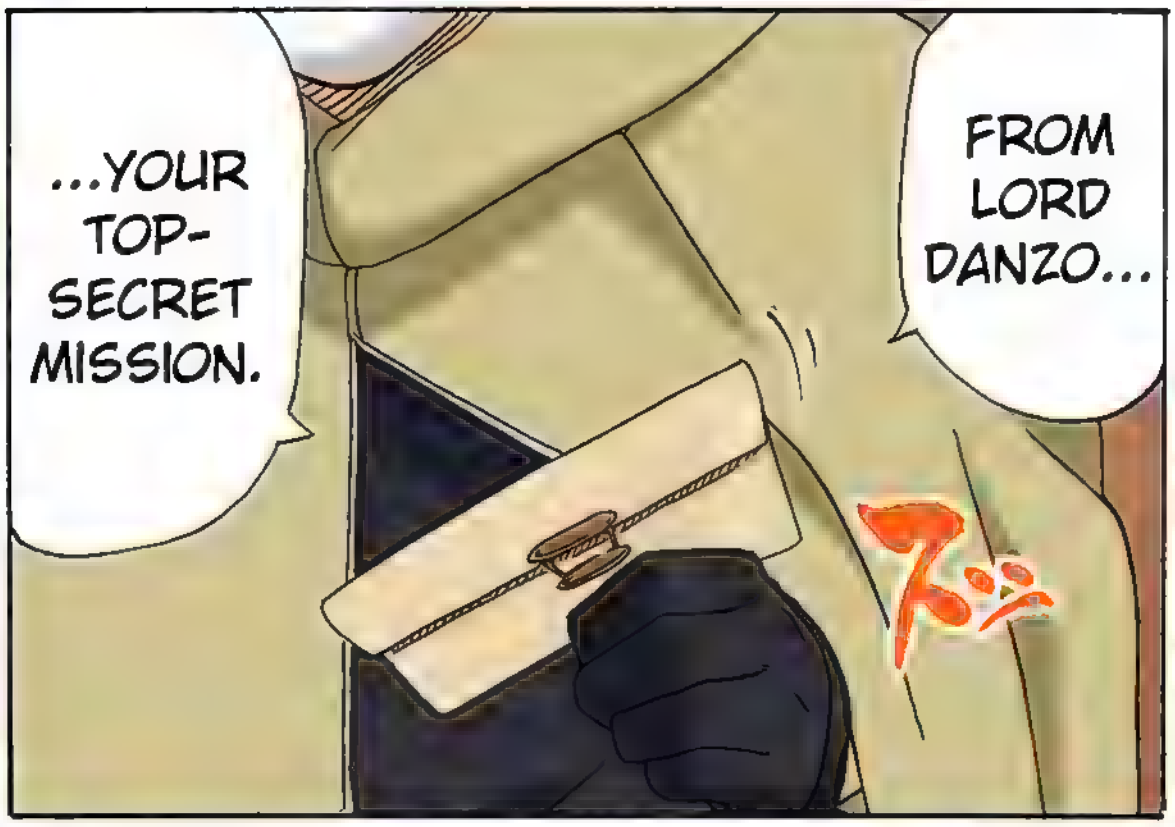


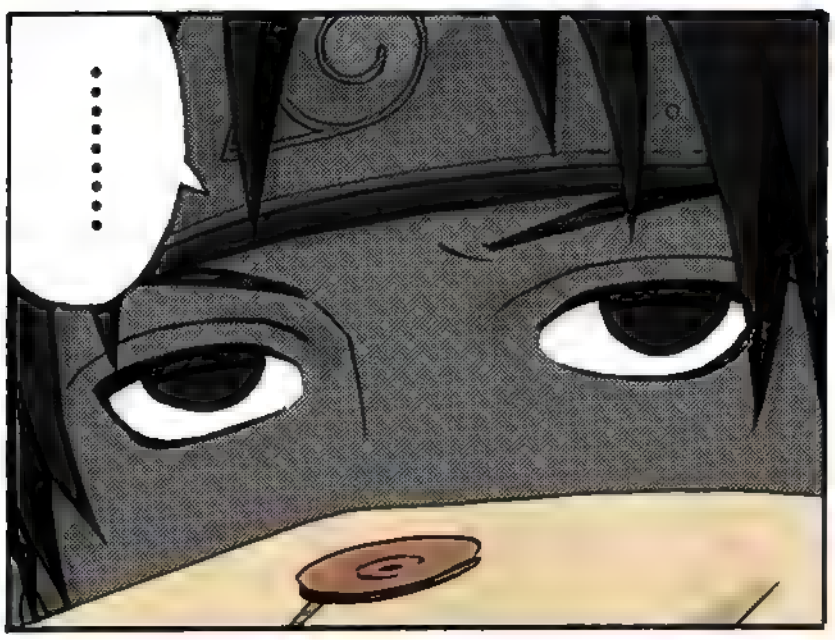

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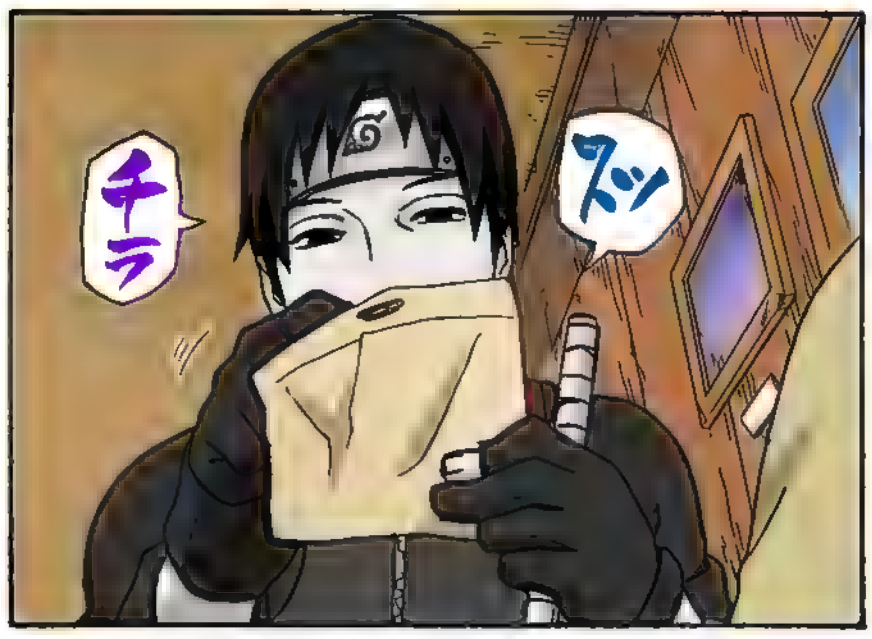

BUT REMEMBER ... NEVER LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.
...VERY NICE REFLEXES.

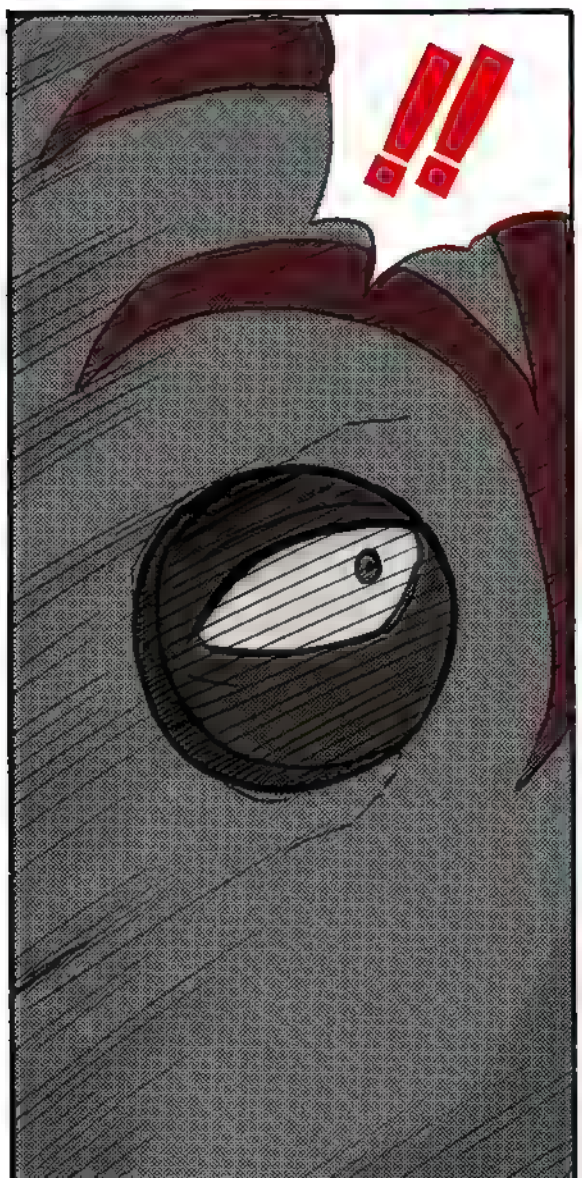

WHAT DO YOU WANT... SIR?
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MROWR!

...JUST A CAT...

...IN ANY CASE...

...MISTAKES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

.....

COLORED MANGA.COM

I UNDER-STAND.

!

... THIS IS...

... STILL CARRY THAT THING ...?

YOU...

...HAVE NO NAMES...

...NO EMOTIONS ...

THOSE OF THE FOUN-DATION...

COLORED MANGA.COM

...NO PAST...

...AND NO FUTURE ...

THERE IS ONLY THE MISSION ...

.....

NEVER FORGET THAT.

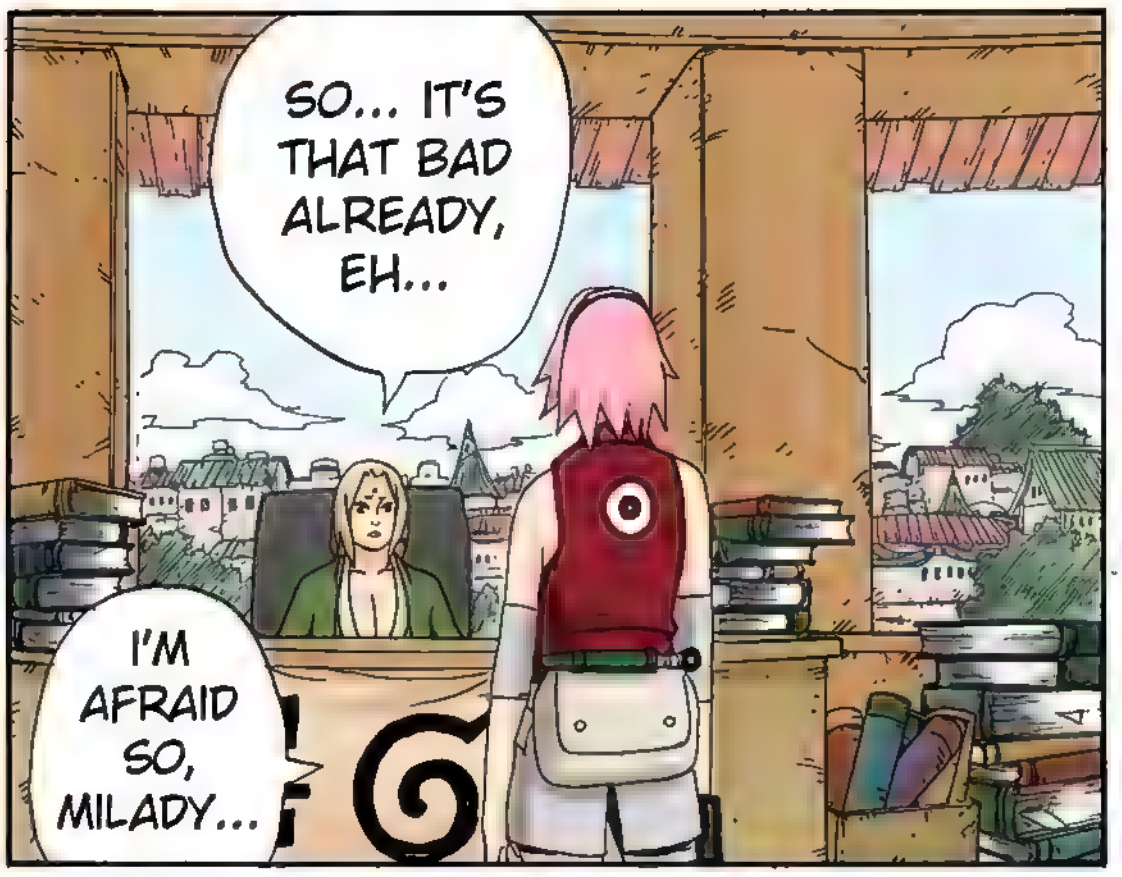
WE ARE THE ROOTS THAT SUPPORT ...

...THE GREAT TRUNK OF KONOHA, INVISIBLE, FROM INSIDE THE EARTH...

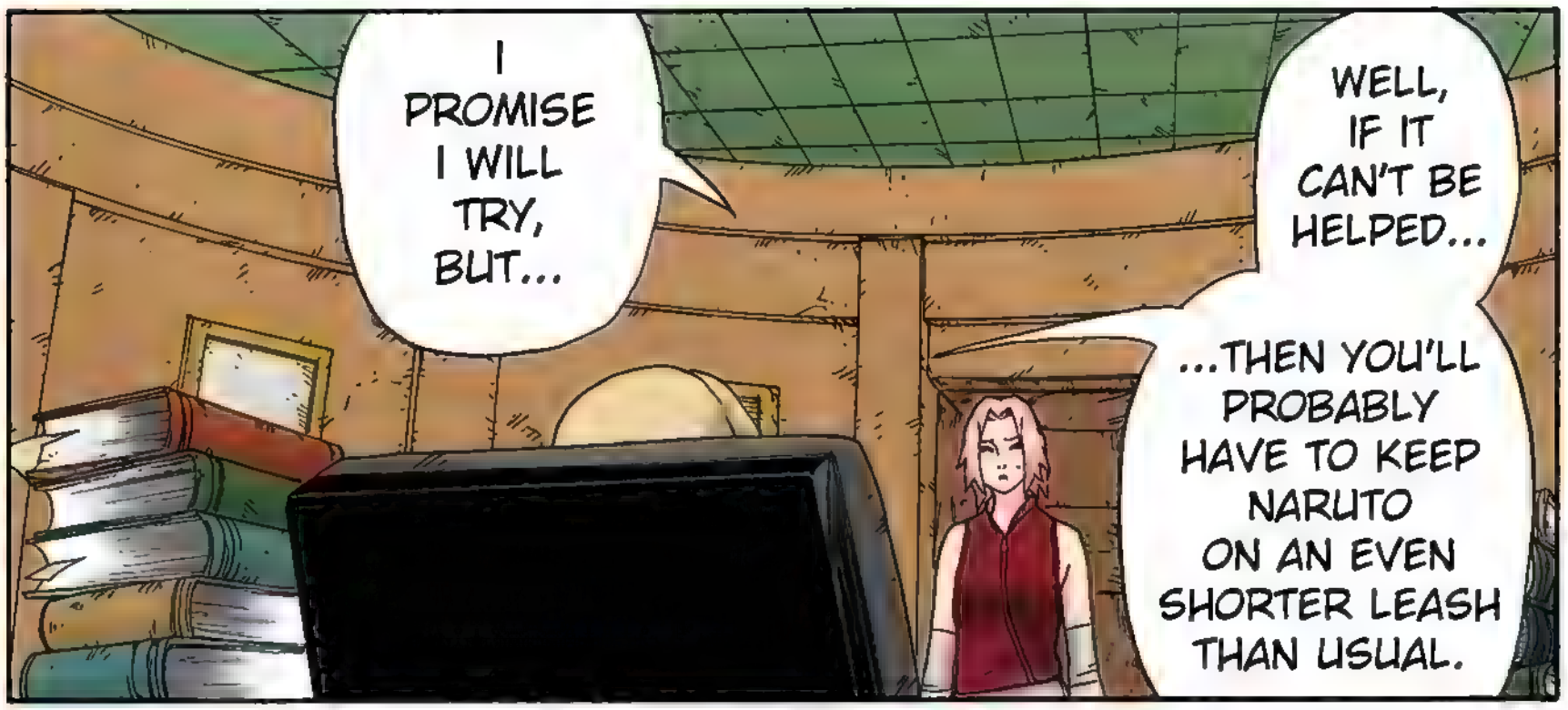
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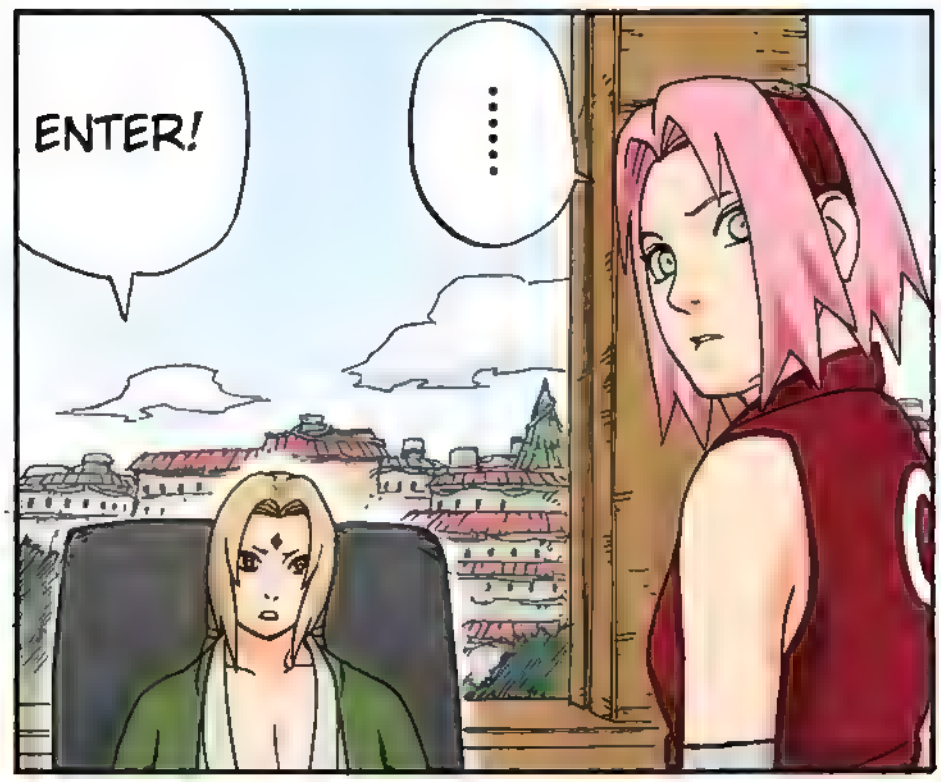
YES, SIR.

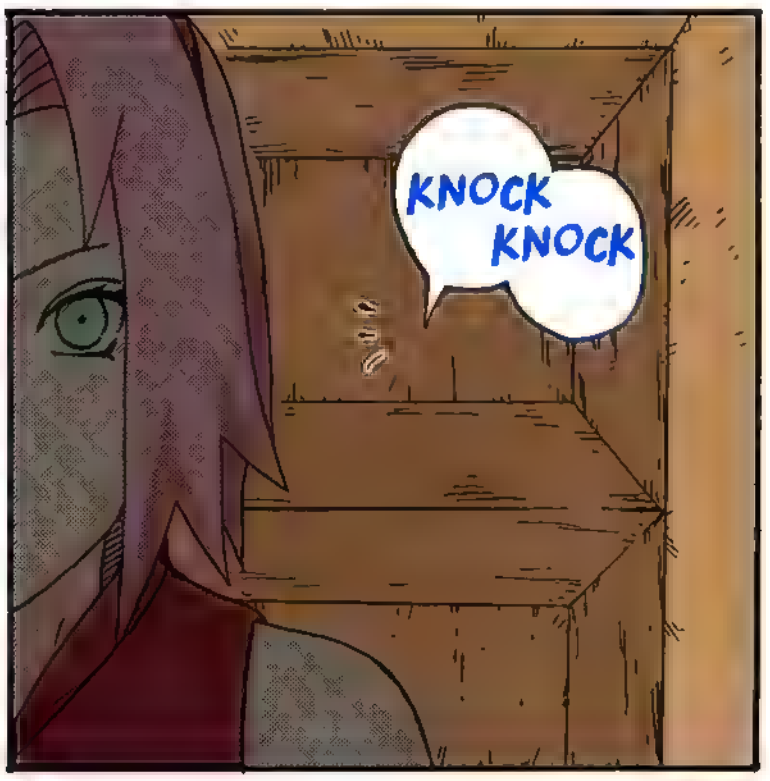
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I PROMISE I WILL TRY, BUT...
WELL, IF IT CAN'T BE HELPED...
...THEN YOU'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO KEEP NARUTO ON AN EVEN SHORTER LEASH THAN USUAL.





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I HAVE SELECTED AN EXEMPLARY SHINOBI...

...WITH EXPERIENCE FROM AS FAR BACK AS THE THIRD HOKAGE'S RULE.

...PRINCESS TSUNADE?

WERE YOU ABLE TO ASSIGN...

...A DISTINGUISHED BLACK OPS OPERATIVE TO LEAD SAI'S CELL...

.....?

I JUST HOPE... HE'S NOT ROOTED TOO DEEPLY IN THE...

...PACIFIST TEACHINGS OF THAT PUSHOVER, SARUTOBI...

...VERY WELL...

JUST AS THE THIRD HOKAGE WAS ROOTED...

...IN THE TEACHINGS OF YOUR GRANDFATHER.

...HUMPH.

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CLUNK

...PRIN-CESS...

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

IN ANY CASE, I AM RELIEVED.

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SOMEONE WHO, LONG AGO, COMPETED WITH THE LATE MASTER SARUTOBI...

...OVER THE SEAT OF THIRD HOKAGE.

.....

THAT ...?

UM, WHO WAS...

AS A STUDENT OF THE MODERATE THIRD HOKAGE...

...AND GRAND-DAUGHTER OF THE FIRST HOKAGE, HE ACTIVELY DESPISES ME.

...AND HE'S THE LEADER OF A HARD-LINE MARTIAL FACTION FOUNDED ON RIGID PRINCIPLES...

HIS NAME IS DANZO...

...HE'S ALSO SAI'S SUPERIOR.

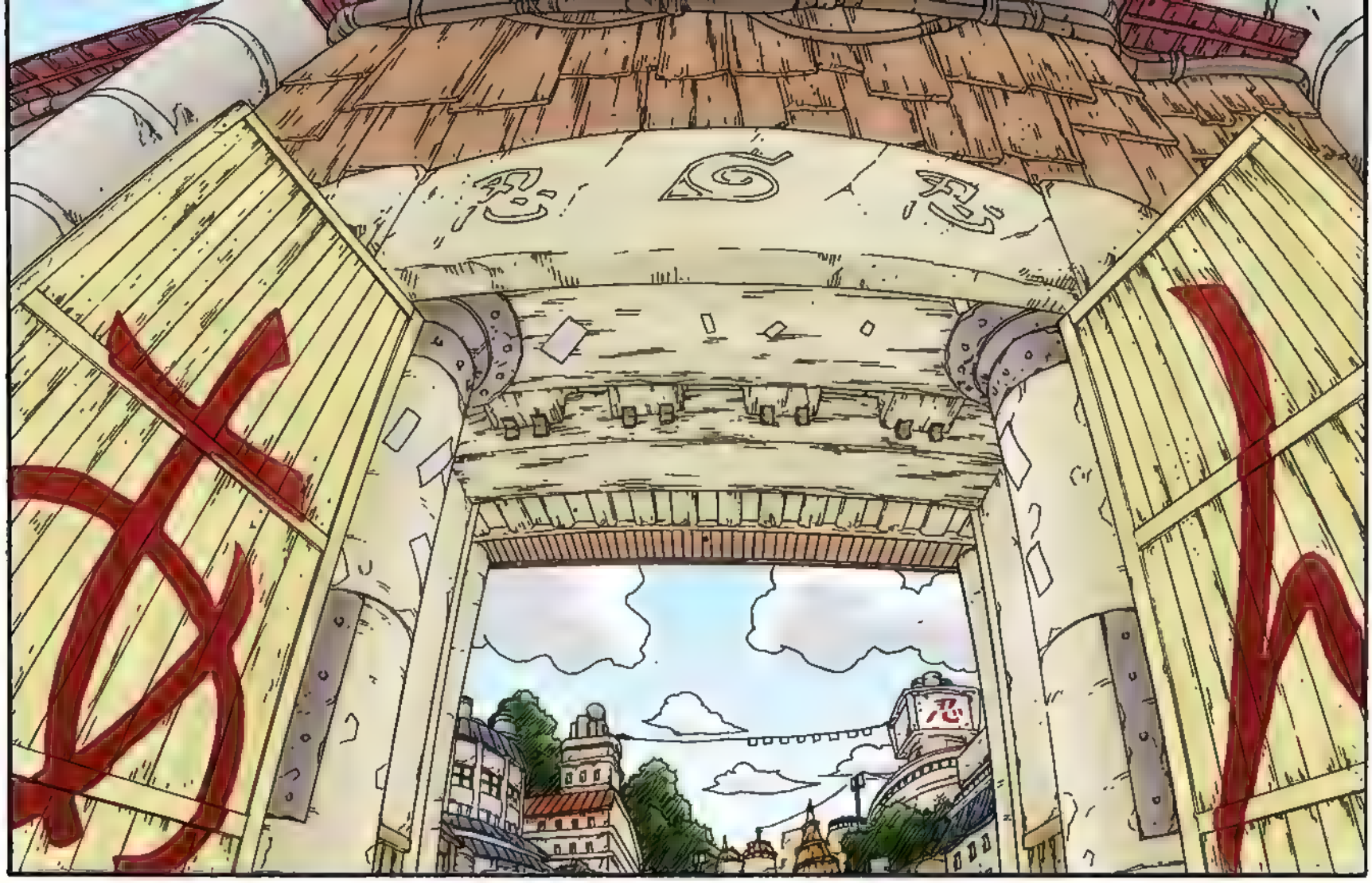
YES, MA'AM ...

...TIME TO GO...

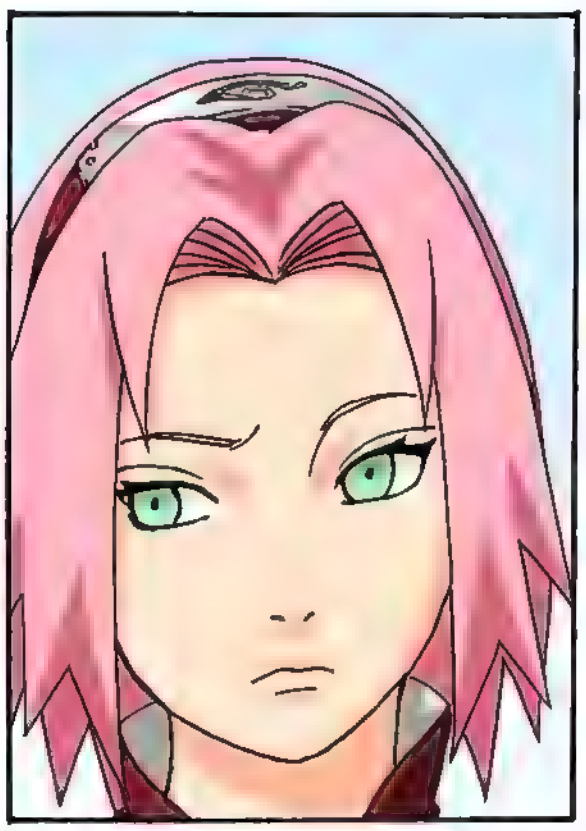
IT'S BEEN ALMOST AN HOUR, SAKURA...

.....

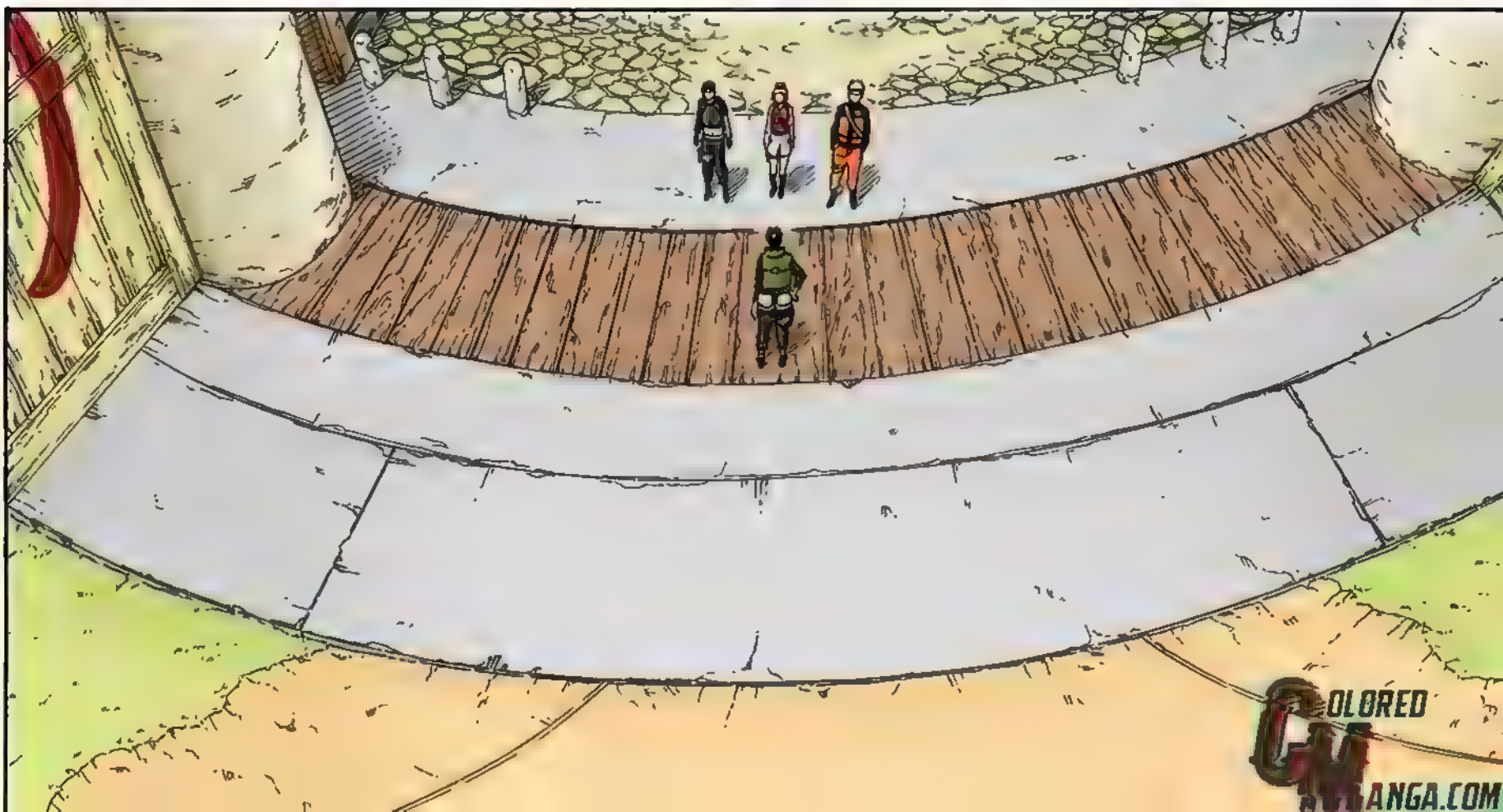
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.....

OKAY, PEOPLE ...THIS IS IT!

GO TEAM KAKASHI!

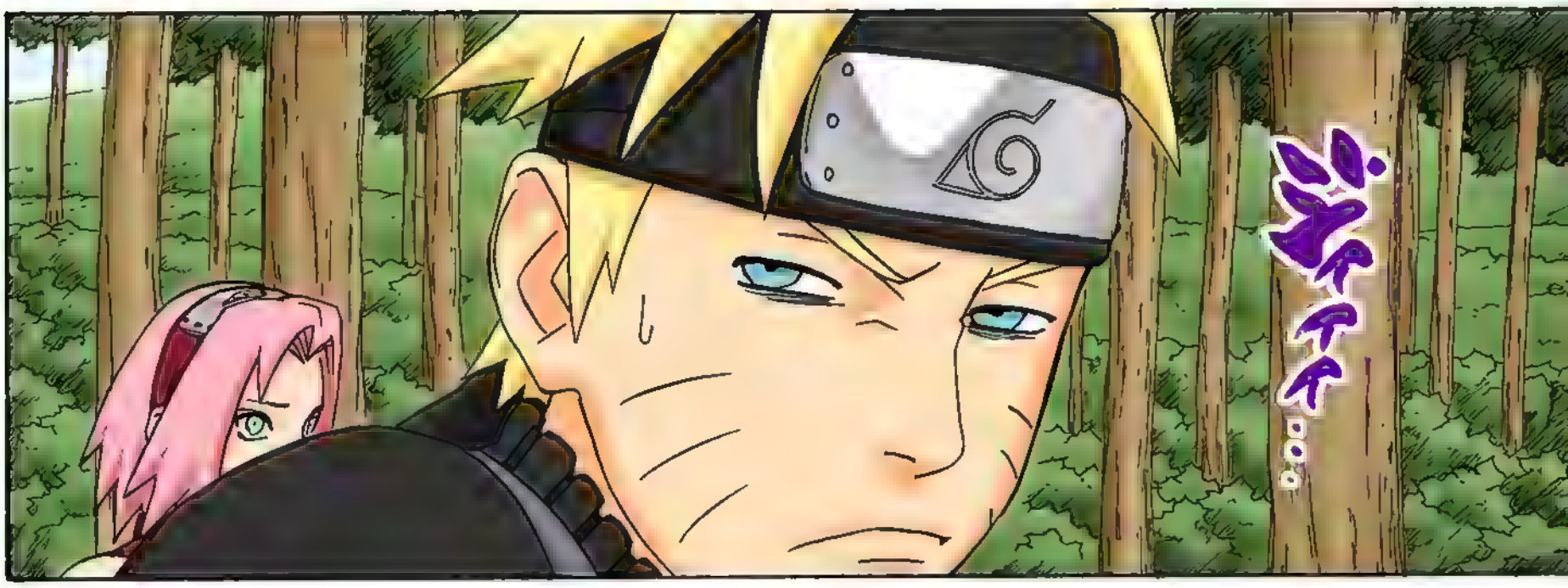
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286: NARUTO, SASUKE & SAKURA



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FUNNY, BUT THE MORE I LOOK AT HIM, THE MORE HE *DOES* KINDA RESEMBLE SASUKE...

...SORTA SOUNDS LIKE HIM TOO...

.....!

I TAKE IT BACK. HE IS SOOOO *NOT* SASUKE!

WHAT? YOU THINK I'M SCARED OF YOU?

I WILL HIT YOU.

IF YOU KEEP LOOKING AT ME...

WELL... YOU'RE SURE DOING A CRUMMY JOB!

I'M JUST TRYING OUT...

...A CERTAIN PERSON-ALITY TYPE.

YEAH, RIGHT...

LOOK, I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING PERSONAL AGAINST YOU.

COLORED MANGA.COM

IN FACT, I BET WE'D BE A LOT BETTER OFF WITHOUT YOU... JERK!

WE DON'T NEED SOMEONE LIKE YOU ON THIS TEAM!

I KNOW KAKASHI-SENSEI TAUGHT YOU BETTER THAN THIS.

...YOU'RE STILL GOING TO HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO *TRUST* EACH OTHER.

SAI IS YOUR *TEAM-MATE* NOW...

..SO EVEN IF YOU DON'T GET ALONG...

THAT'S ENOUGH, NARUTO!

NO! HE'S **NOT** ONE OF US!

...LOSE THE ATTITUDE, HUH?

SO, PLEASE, FOR KAKASHI'S SAKE...

COLORED MANGA.COM

...IS UCHIHA SASUKE !!

THE FOURTH MEMBER OF TEAM KAKASHI...

...IS A SASUKE *WANNABE!*

HE WILL *NEVER* BE OUR *TEAM-MATE.*

...ALL THIS LOSER IS...

..ALL HE COULD EVER HOPE TO BE...

EVEN ON HIS BEST DAY...

.....

.....

FINE BY ME.

.....

シュー

COLORED MANGA.COM

...WHO ABANDONED HIS VILLAGE FOR OROCHIMARU JUST BECAUSE...

...HE WANTED TO BECOME STRONGER ...

THE LAST PERSON I'D EVER WANT TO BE COMPARED TO...

...IS SOME TRAITOROUS COCKROACH ...

CLENCH

CRUNCH

HOW DARE YOU...

REGARDLESS OF EITHER OF YOUR OPINIONS...

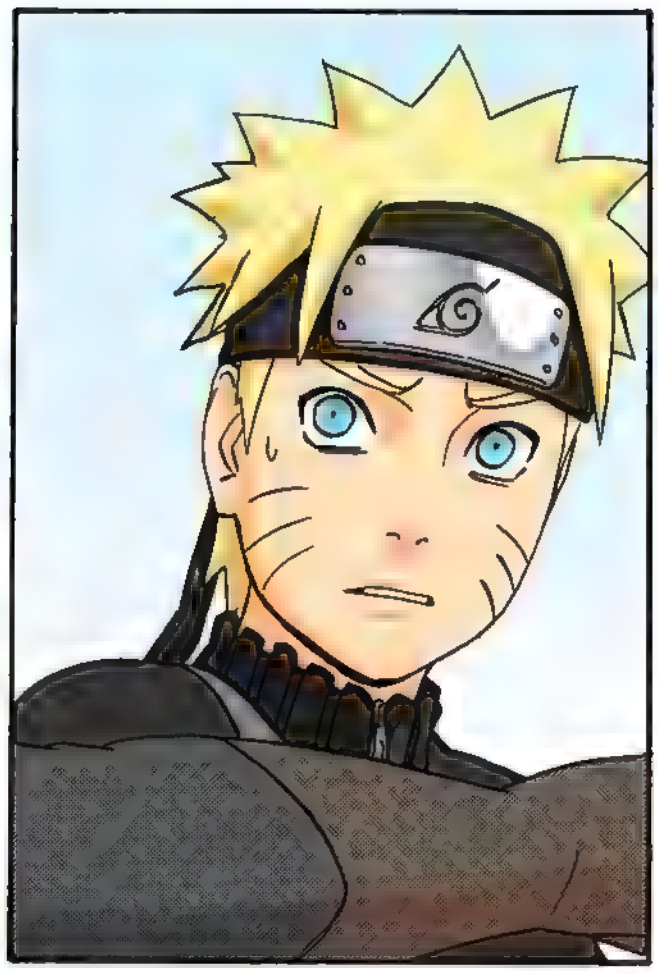
BLOCK

!

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BUT THAT'S NO EXCUSE FOR HIM TO JUDGE YOU.

NARUTO DOESN'T KNOW YOU ALL THAT WELL YET.



S... SAKURA ...

PLEASE FORGIVE NARUTO.

I'M SORRY.

REALLY ...?

...OH, GOOD.

HEY, LIKE I SAID... FINE BY ME.

GOOD TO SEE THERE'S AT LEAST ONE LEVELHEADED PERSON ON THIS TEAM.

WHEW ...

COLORED MANGA.COM

WHAM!

!?

!?

COLORED MANGA.COM

CRASH

.....

!?

HUH ?!

I DON'T CARE...

...IF YOU FORGIVE ME.

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NEVER SPEAK AS IF YOU DO!

YOU DON'T KNOW SASUKE...

AH...

YOUR SMILE WAS A *FAKE*...

JUST KEEP BAD-MOUTHING SASUKE ...

...NEXT TIME I WON'T HOLD BACK...

.....

...I'LL HAVE TO REMEM-BER THAT.

...BUT, THAT CLEVER USE OF A FAKE SMILE...

HO HO... OKAY... I'LL KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT...

COLORED MANGA.COM

"...IT WILL FOOL MORE PEOPLE THAN YOU THINK."

...OR SO I'VE READ.

"THE BEST WAY TO DEFUSE A TROUBLE-SOME SITUATION IS BY SMILING...

"...EVEN IF IT IS A FAKE SMILE...

HOW STUPID ARE YOU?!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

.....

.....

THOUGH IT NEVER SEEMS TO WORK FOR ME.

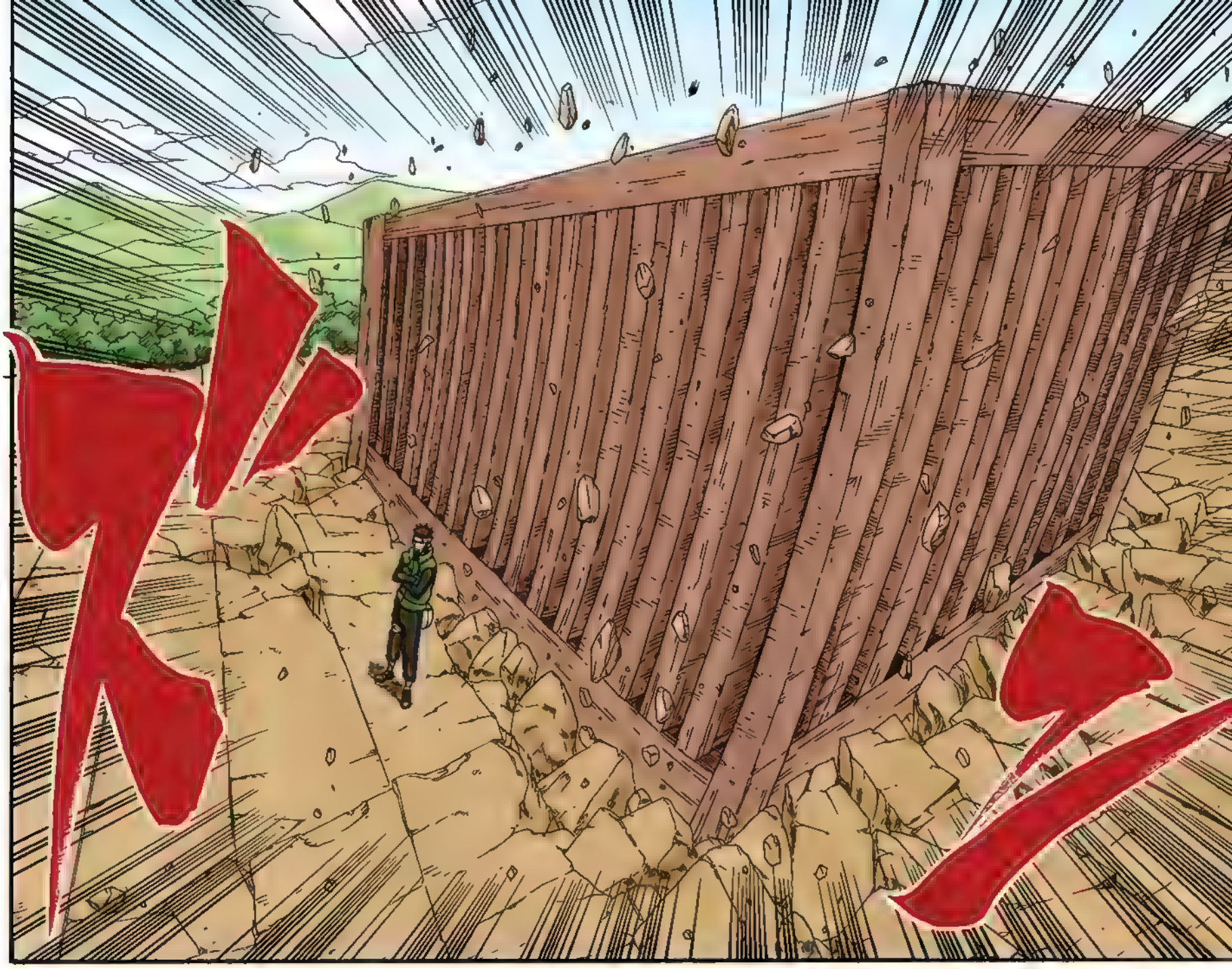
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FOUR-PILLAR PRISON TECH-NIQUE!!

COLORED
NARUTOMANGA.COM



KEEP IT UP, YOU THREE... AND I'LL THROW YOU *ALL* IN A CAGE!

WE ONLY HAVE FIVE DAYS TO GET TO TENCHI BRIDGE.

TH... THAT'S...

WOOD-STYLE NINJUTSU !!

!

.....

.....!

COLORED MANGA.COM

WHO IS HE...?

.....

...SO HOW DOES COMMANDER YAMATO KNOW IT...?

...A SECRET JUTSU KNOWN ONLY TO THE FIRST HOKAGE...

...OR ENJOY A NIGHT AT A COMFORTABLE INN WITH A RELAXING HOT SPRING.

SPEND THE REST OF THE DAY CRAMMED INSIDE A WOODEN BOX REACQUAINTING YOURSELVES WITH THE MEANINGS OF TEAMWORK...

TWO CHOICES.

NOW, I'LL GIVE YOU...

LOOM

...NOT AGAINST USING MORE DRACONIAN METHODS WHEN NECESSARY...

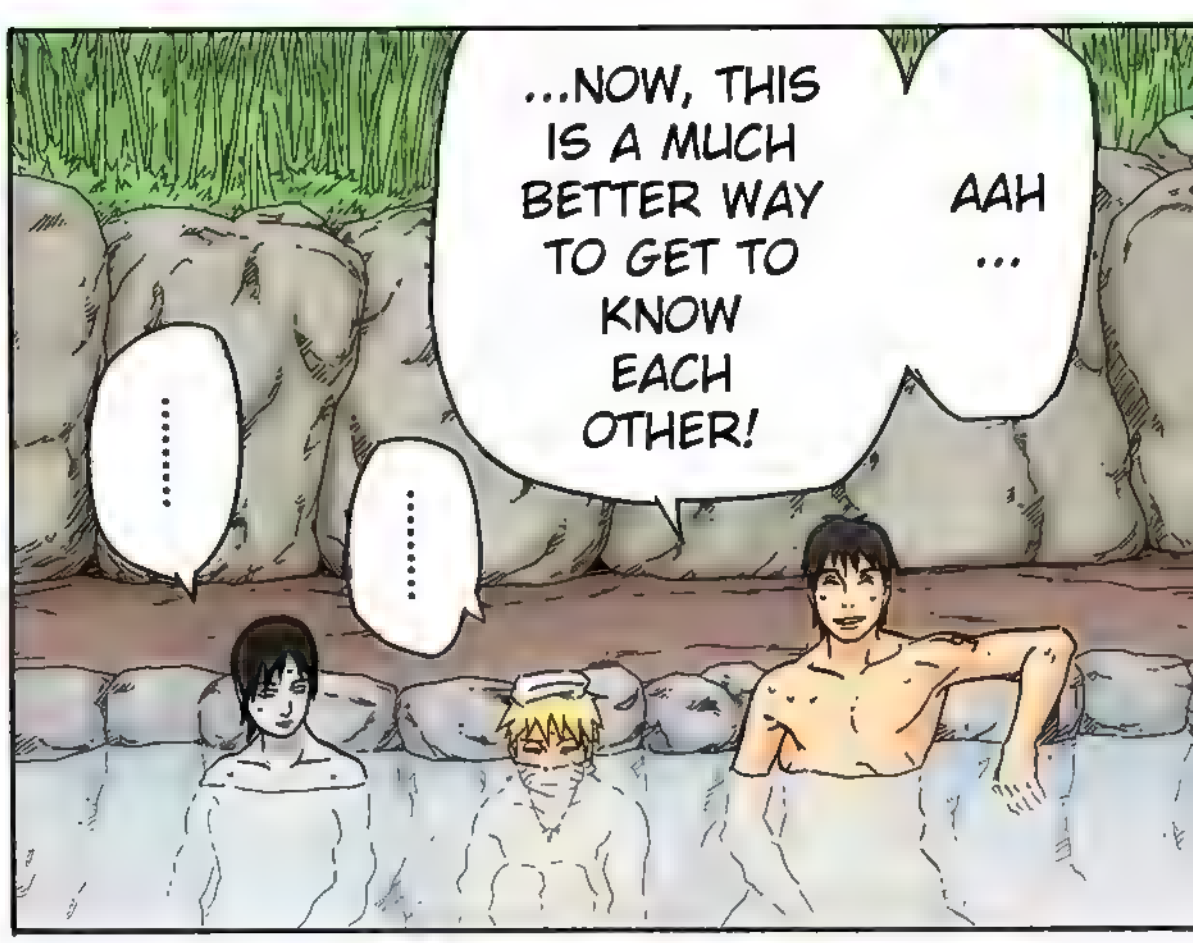
I PREFER THE KIND AND GENTLE APPROACH, BUT I'M...

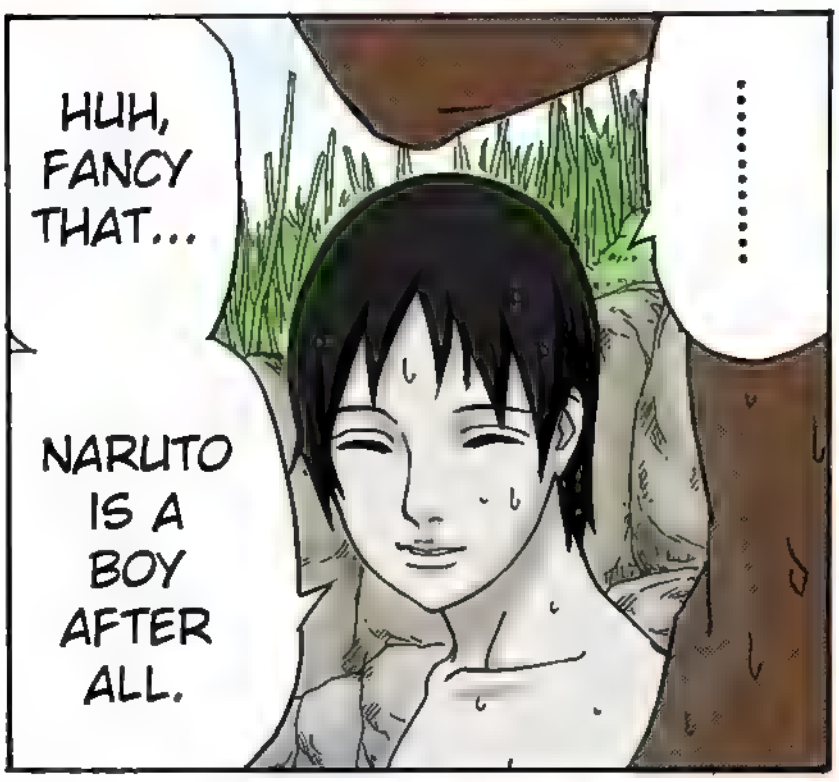
YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW ME EITHER...

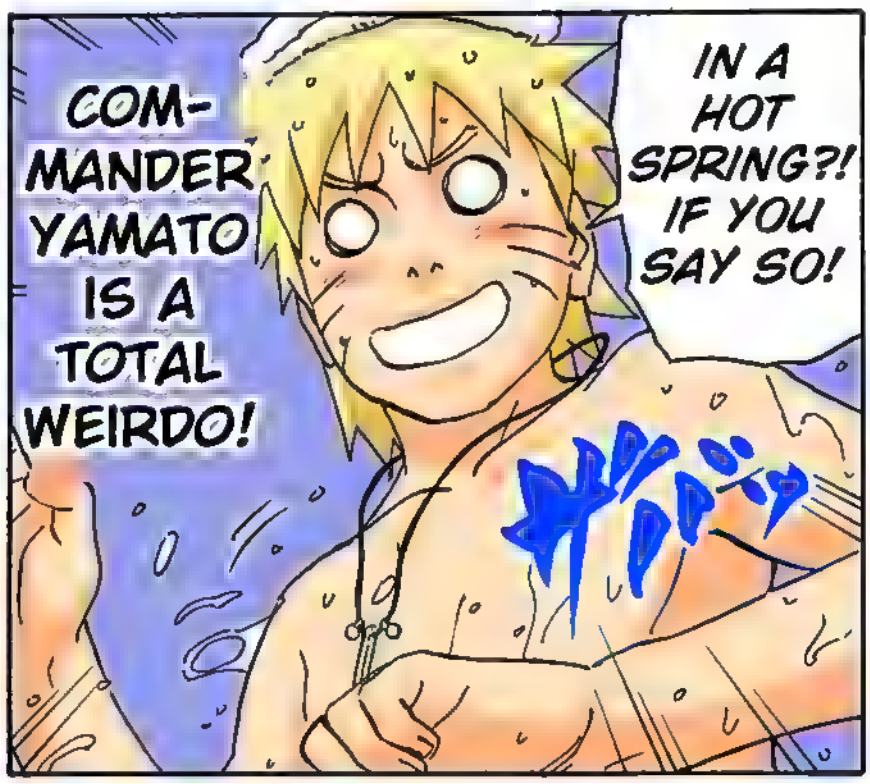
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!!!!!!

I AM NOT COMFORTABLE IN THIS SETTING AT ALL!

OKAY, FIRST OF ALL...!

COME ON, NARUTO... LOWER YOUR VOICE, WILL YOU?!

COLORED MANGA.COM

GRIN

!

TEE-HEE HEE HEE HEE!

...HAVING FRACTURED SIX RIBS AND BOTH ARMS AND SUFFERED RUPTURED INTERNAL ORGANS.

A VERY LONG TIME AGO, WHEN HE WAS JUST A BOY, YOUR MENTOR LORD JIRAIYA CAME THIS CLOSE TO DEATH...

...BUT BEFORE I GO, LET ME SHARE A FUNNY STORY WITH YOU, NARUTO.

WELL, THAT'S ENOUGH BONDING FOR ME...

SO BEFORE YOU HOP OUT OF THAT SPRING...

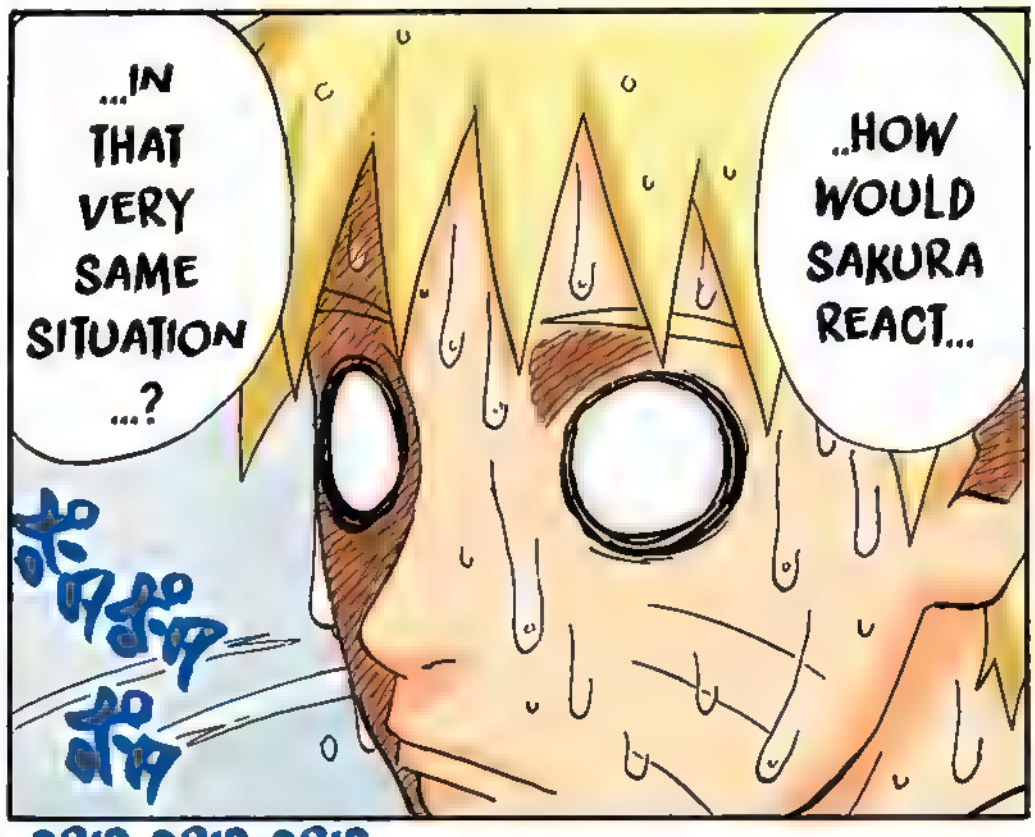
...I SUGGEST YOU STOP AND THINK....

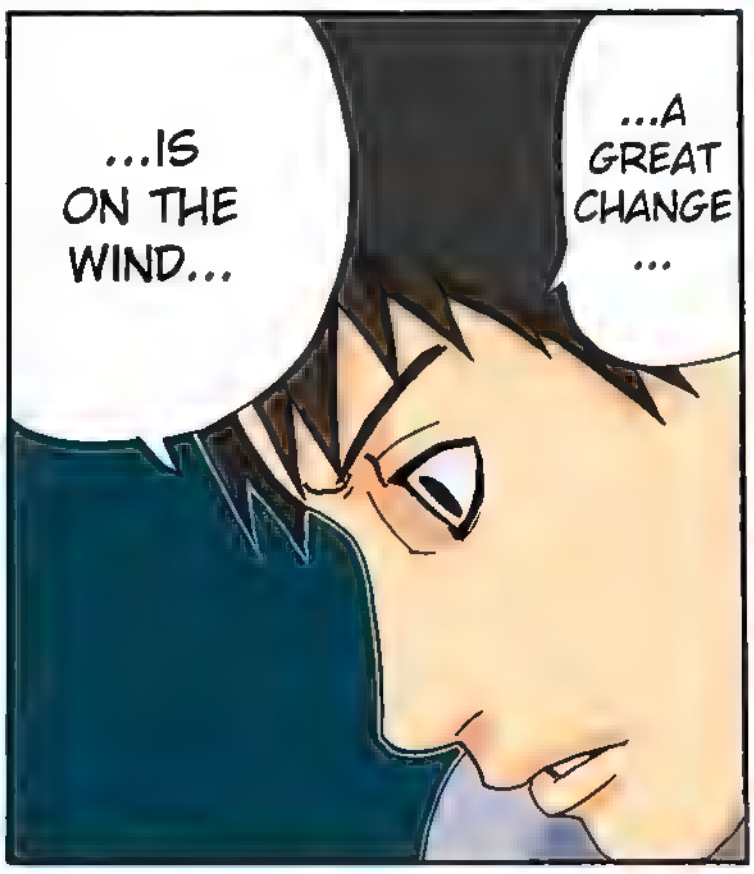
THE REASON? SUPPOSEDLY... LADY TSUNADE FOUND OUT THAT HE DID...

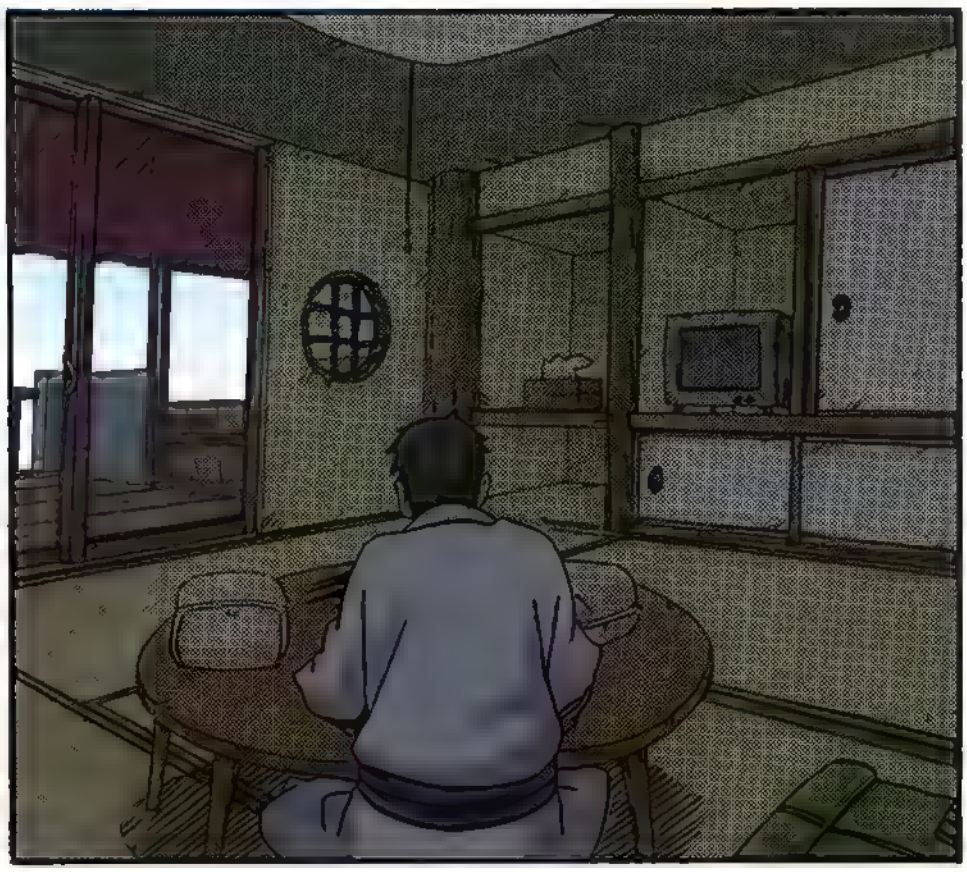
...PRECISELY WHAT YOU'RE CONTEMPLATING RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

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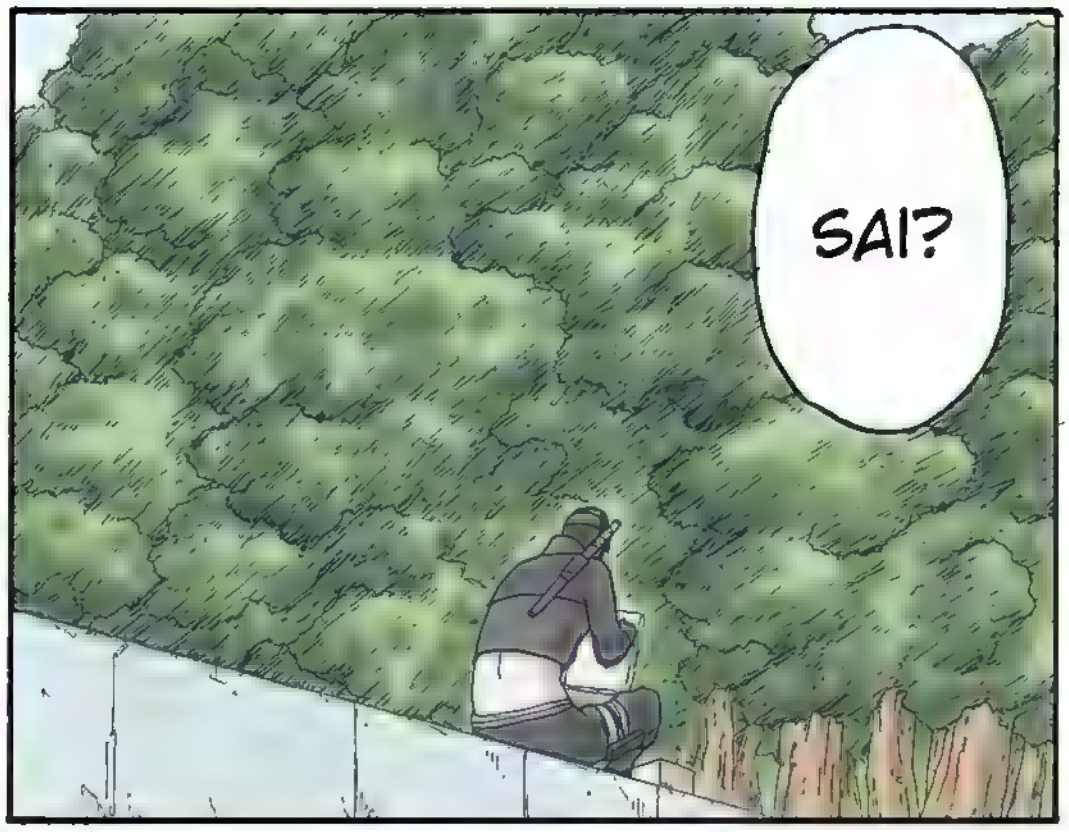
NOTHING LIKE A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP!

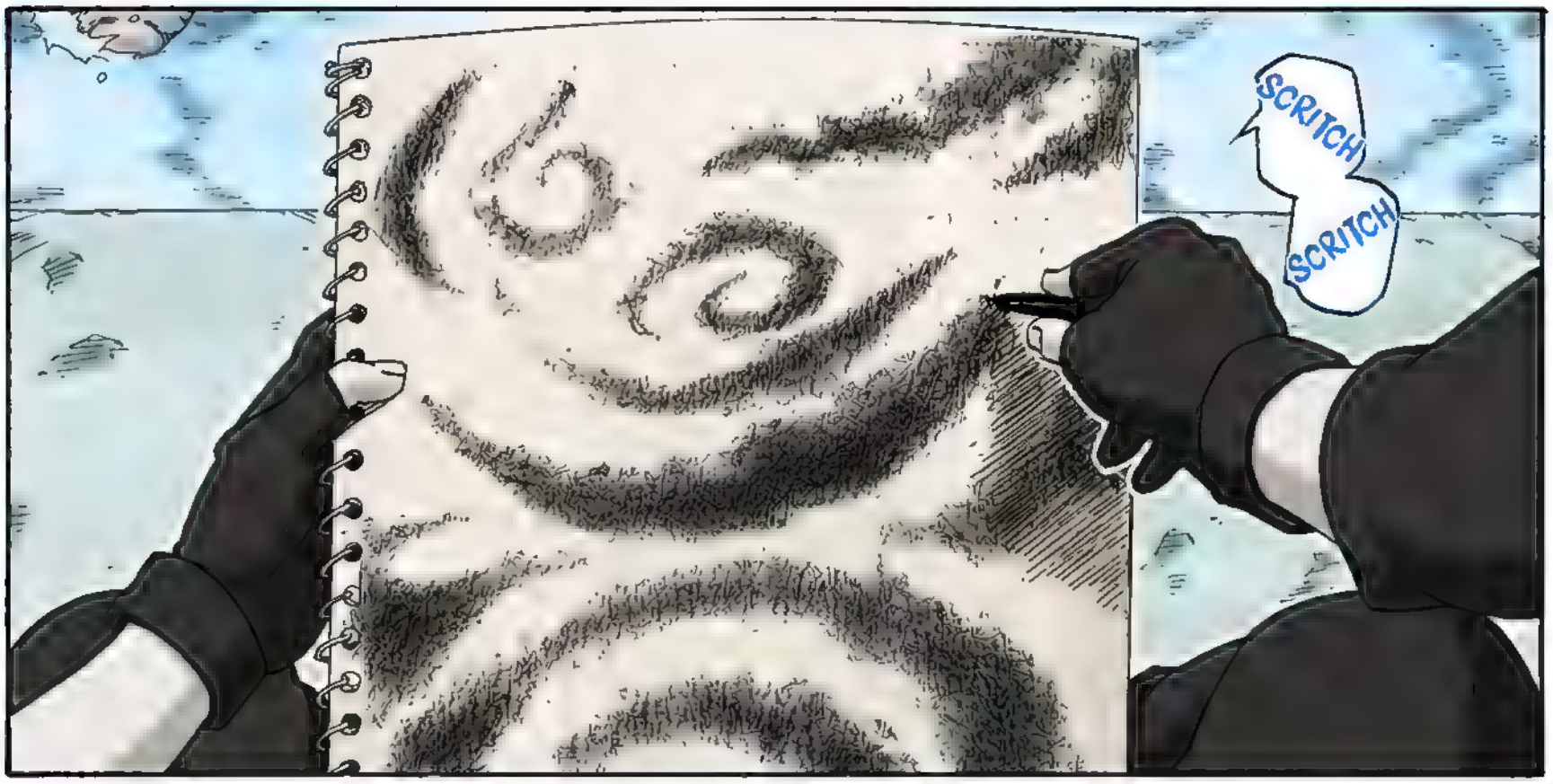
MMMM ...!

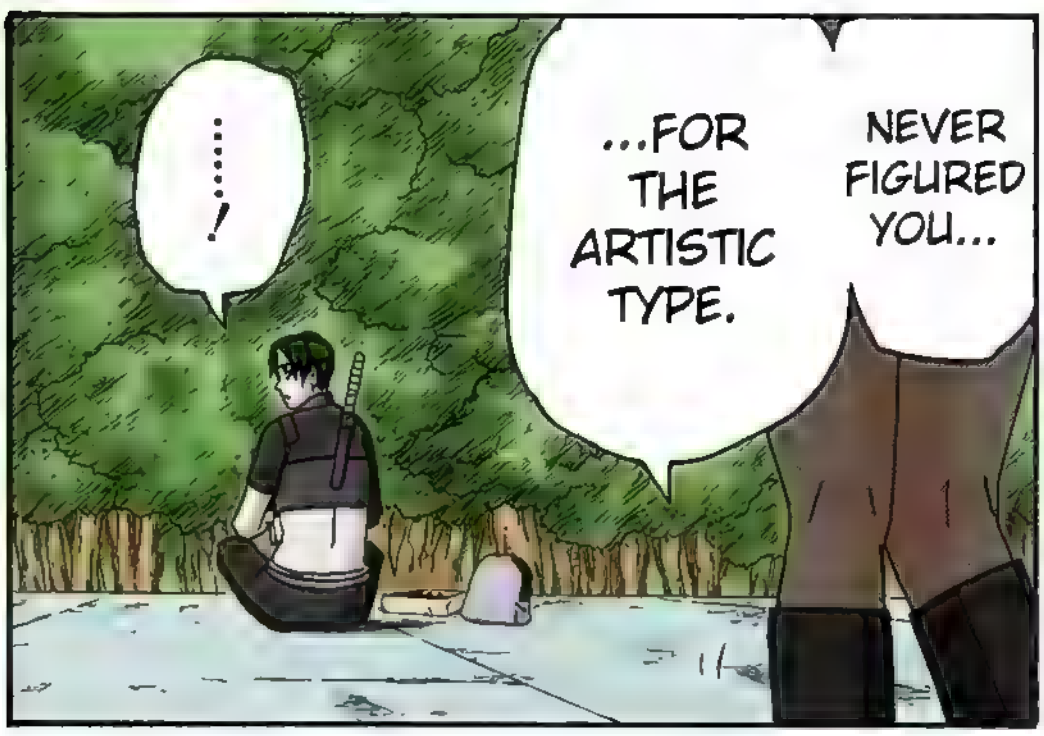
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.....

.....

LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING.

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE...

...GONNA SLUG ME NOW?

THAT FAKE SMILE AGAIN...

DON'T I KNOW IT. Y'KNOW, FOR SOMEONE SO ROUGH ON THE OUTSIDE...

...YOU SEEM PRETTY SENSITIVE ON THE INSIDE.

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I'LL TRY NOT TO.

SO... WHAT ARE YOU SKETCHING?

I'M ONLY PLAYING WITH YOU.

ONLY IF YOU GIVE ME A REASON.

...BUT THIS IS AN *ABSTRACT.*

I WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT A PLACE LIKE THIS WOULD HAVE YOU DRAWING A LANDSCAPE...

...DON'T KNOW...

IT'S STILL NICE...

WHAT ARE YOU CALLING IT?

YOU DON'T HAVE A TITLE FOR IT YET?

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THERE IS NO TITLE...

HUH...

...BUT I'VE NEVER TITLED ANY OF THEM.

...I MEAN, I'VE DRAWN THOUSANDS IF NOT TENS OF THOUSANDS, OF SKETCHES OVER TIME...

...TO CONVEY THE THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND EMOTIONS...

...THEY FELT AND EXPERIENCED WHILE CREATING THE PIECE...

EVEN IF IT'S JUST SOMETHING SIMPLE...

I THOUGHT ALL ARTISTS NAMED THEIR WORK...?

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...
HONESTLY, WHENEVER I TRY TO GIVE THEM TITLES...

...NOTHING GOOD COMES TO MIND.

.....

SCRITCH

...AND I JUST DON'T FEEL... *ANY-THING.*

THE RIGHT WORDS... ESCAPE ME...

?

COLORED MANGA.COM

...IS THAT WHY YOU'RE SUCH AN INSENSITIVE JERK...?

OK.

SO- IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND...

COMMANDER YAMATO SAYS IT'S TIME TO GO.

PEEK

HUMPH! THAT DRAWING ...

..IS NOTHING SPECIAL.

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I HATE YOU!!

THAT'S IT! I'VE HAD IT!

JUST LIKE YOU.

SURE.

UGH...

.....

IF YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH ME, DON'T GIVE ME THAT FAKE SMILE!

JUST SAY IT!

.....

AND I'LL FIGHT YOU ANYTIME!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

!?

BUT I DON'T HATE YOU, NARUTO...

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING TOWARD YOU AT ALL, GOOD OR BAD.

.....

.....

.....

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I'LL HELP.

.....

I'LL CATCH UP AS SOON AS I'VE PACKED.

PLEASE. JUST GO ON AHEAD.

!

...THIS ...IT'S NOT A PRINTED COPY.

DID YOU DRAW THIS, TOO?

!

HUMPH!

WOW...

...YOUR VERY OWN PICTURE BOOK...

YEAH ...

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...IT'S NOT FINISHED YET.

SORRY, BUT NO.

HEY...

...WHILE WE'RE ON THE ROAD, IS IT OKAY IF I FLIP THROUGH THIS?

!

?

PLUS, I DON'T REALLY SHOW IT TO OTHERS...

...BECAUSE IT BELONGS TO MY OLDER BROTHER.

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……?

……

……

……

FOLLOWED
MANGA.COM

MOKUTON SHICHUKA NO JUTSU! WOOD STYLE FOUR-PILLAR HOUSE TECHNIQUE!!

THIS SPOT SHOULD DO NICELY ...

.....

WHA!

WE'LL CAMP OUT HERE TONIGHT.

UM... I DON'T THINK THIS REALLY QUALIFIES AS CAMPING OUT.

COLORED MANGA.COM

!

ALL RIGHT, GATHER AROUND, EVERY-ONE.

...THERE ARE A FEW THINGS I ESPECIALLY NEED TO ASK YOU.

OH, AND SAKURA ...

...WITH REGARD TO THE AKATSUKI MEMBER *SASORI*.

WHAT ABOUT?

AFTER ALL, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE HERE...

...WHO'S GONE TOE-TO-TOE WITH HIM.

...IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF YOU COULD FILL IN ANY BLANKS...

...ABOUT HIS PERSONALITY, SPEECH PATTERNS, MANNERISMS, OR QUIRKS...

I RECEIVED HIS FILE FROM SUNA-GAKURE, BUT...

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THEY MIGHT CATCH ME RIGHT AWAY...

...BUT I'M GOING TO TRY TO APPROACH THEM DISGUISED AS SASORI.

THE AKATSUKI SPY WHO HAS INFILTRATED OROCHIMARU'S RANKS...

...EXPECTS TO RENDEZVOUS WITH SASORI AT TENCHI BRIDGE.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ALL THAT FOR?

YOU THREE WILL LIE IN WAIT UNTIL I SIGNAL YOU.

TRUE... AND SINCE THERE'S STILL A SMALL CHANCE THIS IS AN AKATSUKI TRAP... I'VE PLANNED FOR THAT POSSIBILITY AS WELL.

THAT'S WHY I'LL APPROACH FIRST, ALONE.

...YOUR TARGET WILL DEFINITELY HAVE THEIR GUARD UP.

SPY WORK ENTAILS PRETTY HIGH RISK, SO...

EITHER WAY, THIS SPY... IS MOST LIKELY QUITE STRONG AND ACCOMPLISHED...

...AND THE WAY SASORI MENTIONED IT, JUST BEFORE HE DIED...

...I DON'T THINK IT'S A LIE, BUT...

THERE ***WAS*** AN AKATSUKI SPY, YURA, IN THE SAND VILLAGE AS WELL...

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YEAH, WELL... SO ARE WE...

FWHOO

GUSSST

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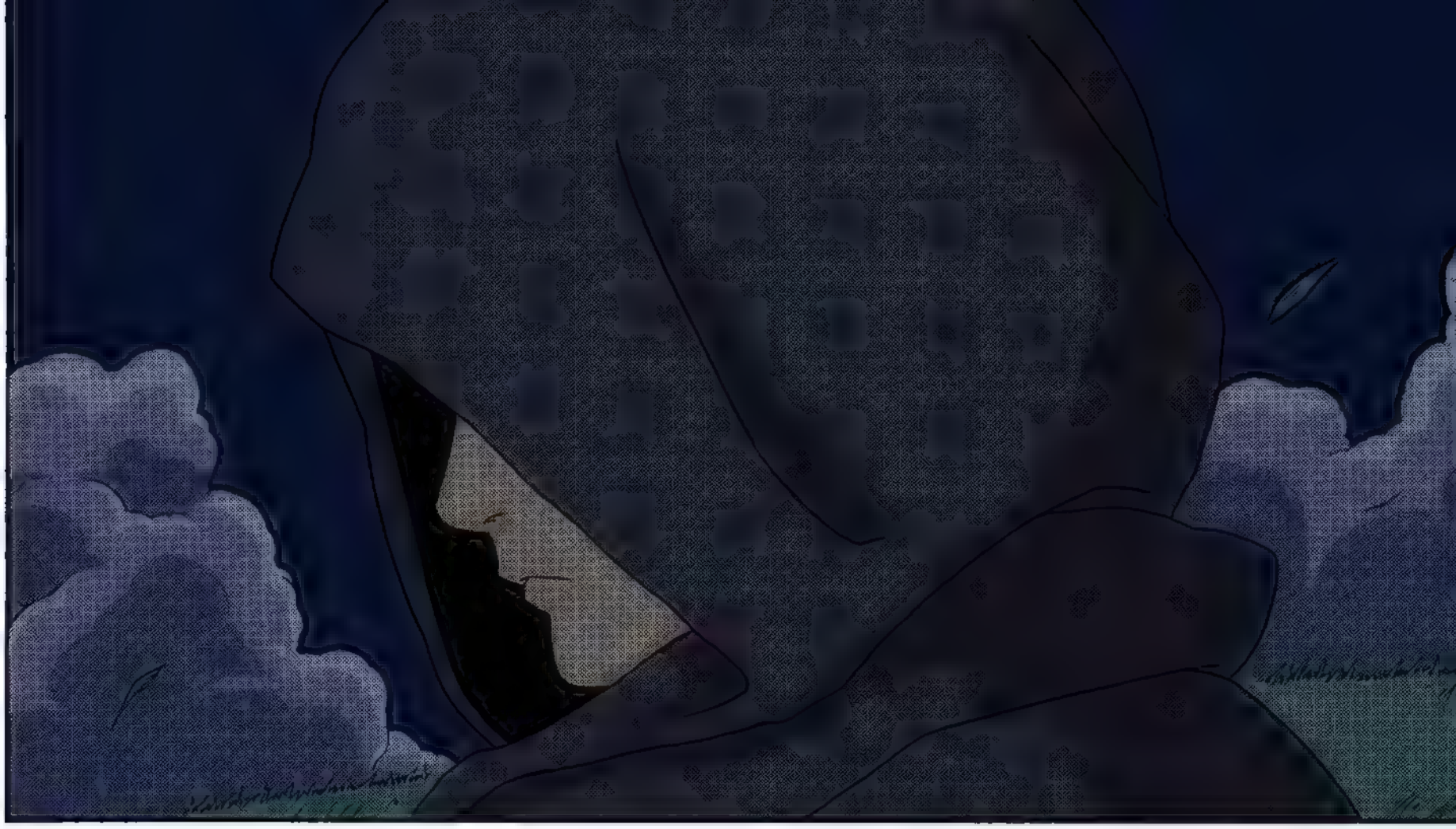
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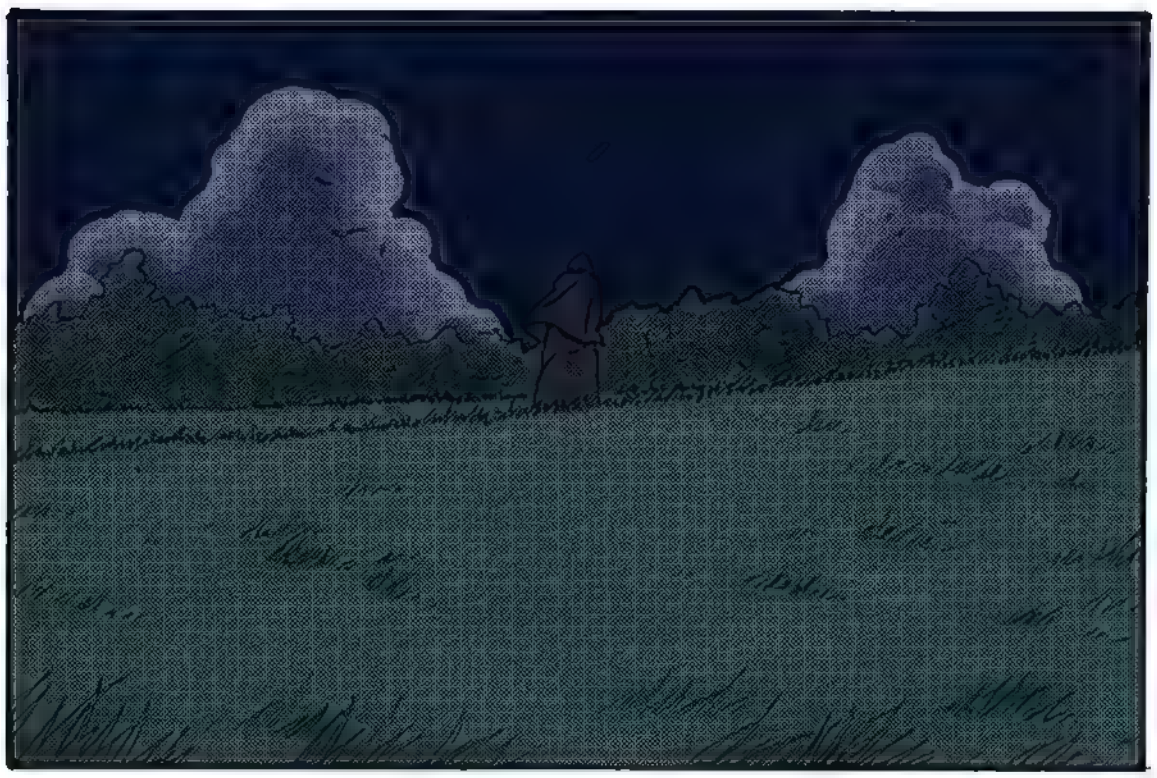
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FEELINGS...?



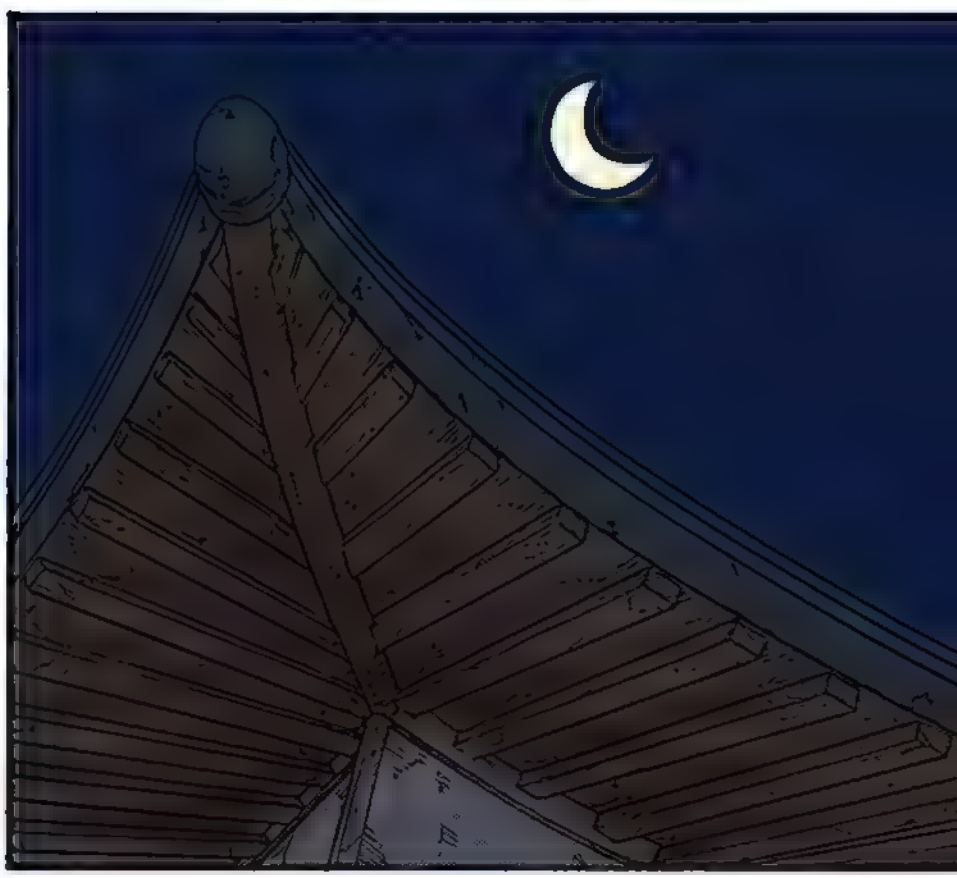
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EVEN IF IT MEANS HAVING TO FIGHT THEM.

OUR ONE AND ONLY GOAL IS A ***LIVE CAPTURE...***

...THE TARGET MUST ***NOT*** BE KILLED OR INJURED, NO MATTER WHAT.

SO... WHILE YOU THREE ACT AS BACKUP ...

AND BECAUSE IT'S SUCH A DELICATE SITUATION ...

...THIS MUST GO OFF WITHOUT A HITCH.

THEREFORE, THIS MISSION IS EVEN HARDER THAN WHEN YOU JUST HAVE TO TAKE DOWN THE ENEMY.

WOW...

IF THEY'RE KILLED, WE LOSE OUR ONLY SOURCE OF INTELLIGENCE.

THEN, AND ONLY THEN, DO YOU SHIFT TO COMBAT MODE...

..ENTERING THE FRAY ON MY SIGNAL ALONE.

..AND IT IS REVEALED THAT I AM, IN FACT, ***NOT*** SASORI...

...A BATTLE WILL LIKELY ENSUE.

IF, BY SOME CHANCE, MY DISGUISE IS PENE-TRATED ...

I'LL GO AHEAD AND TRY TO CAPTURE THE TARGET BY MYSELF.

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SO... HERE ARE THE PAIRINGS.

EVERY WARRIOR'S ACTION WILL BE COVERED BY THEIR PARTNER.

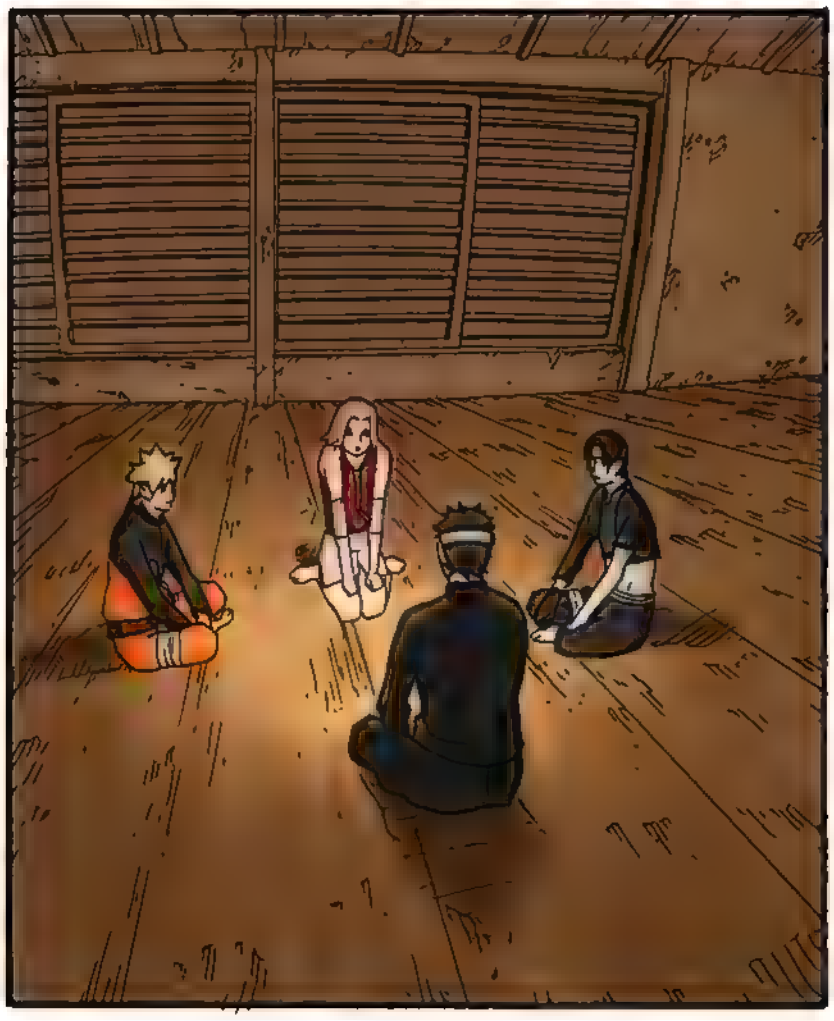
THE WATCH-WORD, PEOPLE, IS ***TEAM-WORK.***

WE WILL FIGHT IN PAIRS AT ALL TIMES.

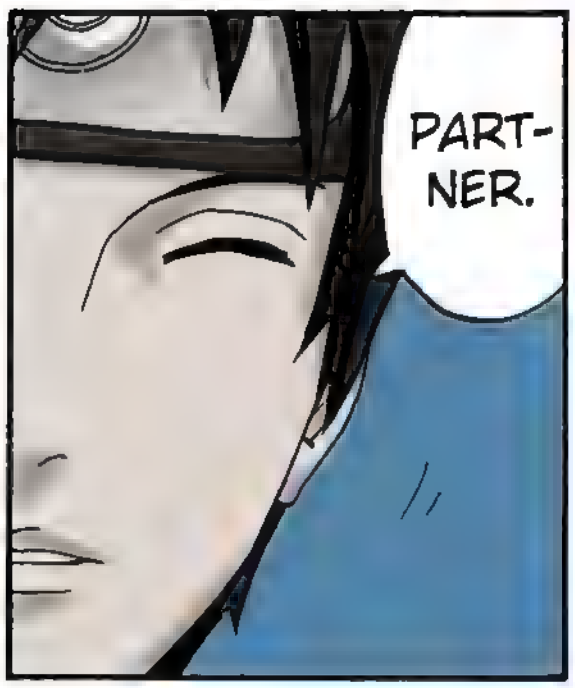
SQUAD ONE WILL BE... NARUTO AND SAI.

SAKURA, YOU'RE WITH ME...

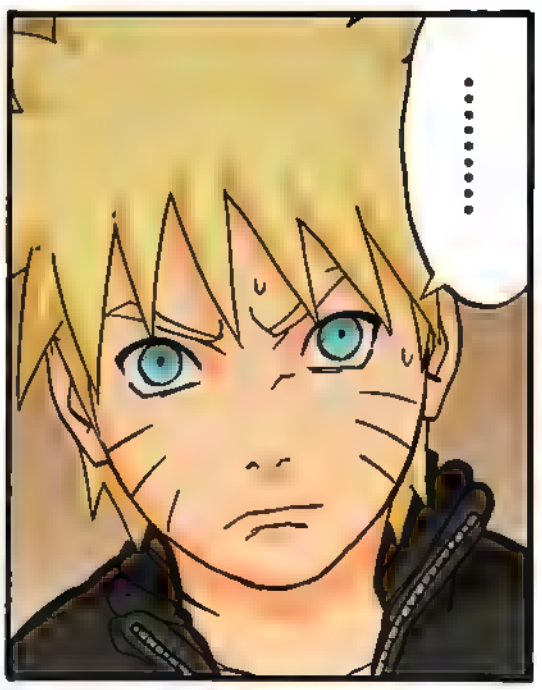
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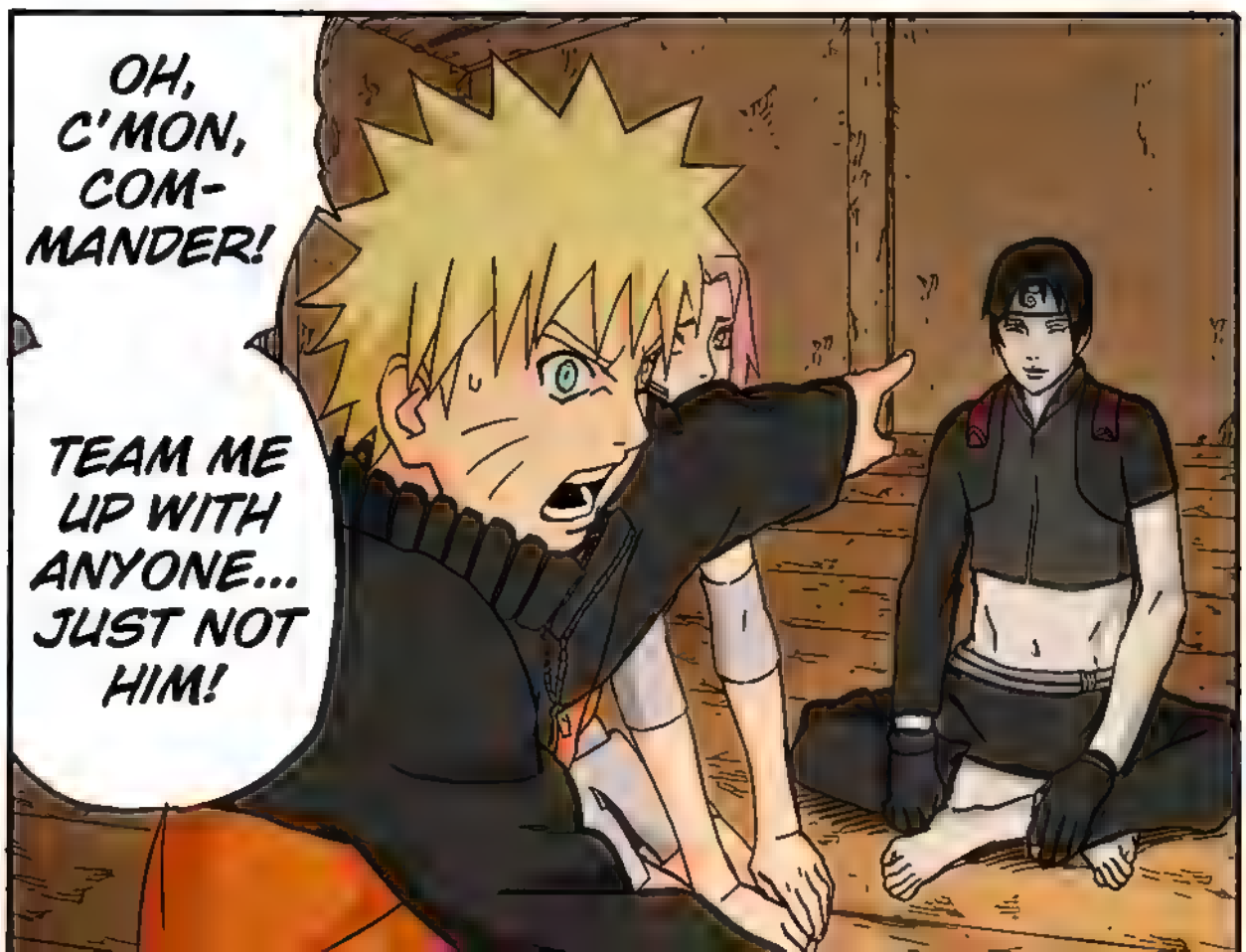


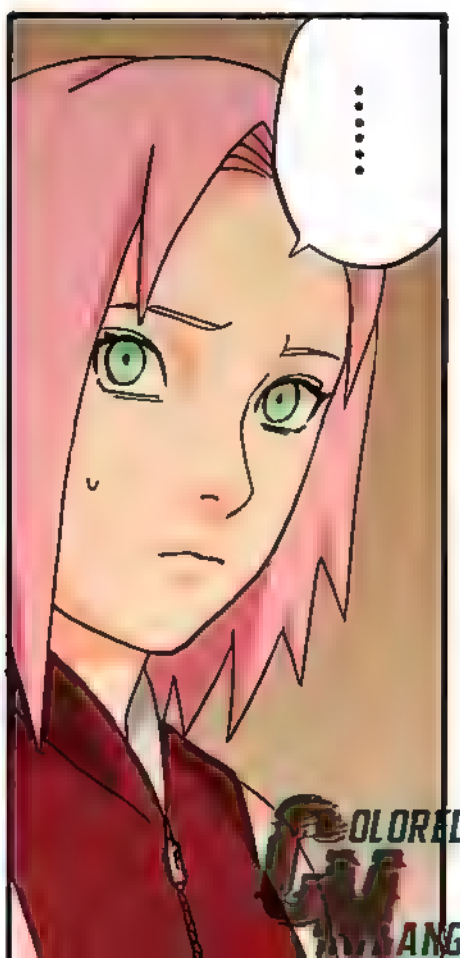

YOU'RE THE TEAM'S ONE AND ONLY MEDIC NINJA.
BUT...
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE YOU INJURED, SO I WILL COVER YOU.


PART-
NER.


!


.....


OH, C'MON, COM-MANDER!
TEAM ME UP WITH ANYONE... JUST NOT HIM!


.....
COLORED
NARUTOMANGA.COM

AND YET YOU CONTINUE TO COMPLAIN ...

LOOM

!

I NEED TO ASSESS FIRSTHAND YOUR BATTLE STYLE AND SKILLS...

...THE MAKEUP OF YOUR JUTSU, ET CETERA.

EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT YOU THREE COMES FROM YOUR FILES.

...THIS ISN'T STANDARD PROCEDURE, BUT HALF OF TOMORROW...

...WILL BE FOCUSED ON PAIR SIMULATION EXERCISES.

...IN LIGHT OF WHAT I JUST TOLD YOU...

KAKASHI-SENSEI MAY HAVE FAVORED A MORE *LAX* APPROACH...

...BUT I AM NOT HE.

CLEARLY, IT'S THE ONLY WAY I'M EVER GOING TO FORGE THIS TEAM...

...INTO THE COHESIVE FIGHTING UNIT IT NEEDS TO BE.

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SHOOM

WHUP WHUP WHUP

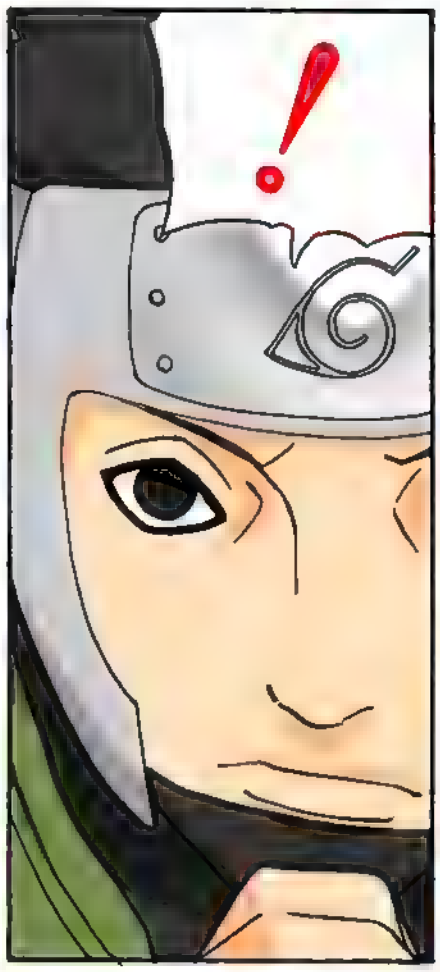
IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?!

DUCK

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COLORED
MANGA.COM

LEAP

BOOF

VOOSH

YAAH!

TAP.

COLORED MANGA.COM

THE ART OF CAR-TOON BEAST MIMI-CRY !!

UNNH ...!

SLAM

*twitch

SLITHER

GOTCHA! AND I'M NOT LETTING GO!!

HISSSS

COLORED MANGA.COM

ハズレ

TWINE TWINE

H... HEY, WHY ME TOO?!!

ゲシッ

LEAP

HEADGEAR: LOSER

SQUEEZE

OVER THERE, HUH...?

HEY, GET THIS OFF OF ME!

GET THIS THING OFF ME!

HEY! SAI!

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NICE CATCH... SAI...

...WE'LL END THE SIMULATIONS HERE.

GRAB

!

CRUNCH

YOU KNOW WHAT THE WORD *COMRADE* MEANS?

PROB-LEM?

COLORED MANGA.COM

SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE

RUMMAGE

SWISH

仲間

AS A MATTER OF FACT...

...I DO.

(ROLL: COMRADE)

...FOR YOUR OWN SHORT-COMINGS.

SERIOUSLY... DON'T GO BLAMING OTHERS...

...N-NARUTO, WAIT.

GNASH COLORED MANGA.COM

IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT ?!

IF YOU HADN'T FALLLEN FOR THE COMMANDER'S OBVIOUS BAIT...

...HE WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN THAT I WAS HIDING ELSEWHERE.

EVEN IF YOU HAD USED YOUR OWN JUTSU AND TRANSFORMED INTO ME, HE STILL WOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WAS ONLY A SHADOW DOPPELGANGER.

I SIMPLY CONSIDERED WHAT WOULD BEST ENSURE MISSION SUCCESS AND ACTED ACCORD-INGLY.

IT'S IMPRACTICAL TO FIGHT WHILE COVERING FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN'T MAINTAIN HIS COOL... NOT TO MENTION DANGEROUS.

.....

I...

...WILL ***NEVER*** ACCEPT YOU AS A COMRADE...

...OR AS A MEMBER OF THIS TEAM!

FLIP

COLORED MANGA.COM

WOULD *HE* HAVE FOUGHT WHILE COVERING YOU?

SOMEHOW I DOUBT IT.

...I WONDER WHAT SASUKE WOULD HAVE DONE IN THIS SCENARIO?

THIS IS SO NOT GOING TO WORK...

OH, SAI... WHY DO YOU INSIST ON PUSHING NARUTO?!

.....

SWOSH

HE BETRAYED OUR VILLAGE AND TRIED TO *KILL* YOU.

AND YOU STILL CONSIDER HIM A COMRADE?

COLORED NARUGA.COM

EVEN TEAM UP WITH YOU.

YES.. AND I WOULD STILL DO ANY-THING TO SAVE HIM.

WHIRL

ダン

.....

.....

.....

NARUTO...

COLORED MANGA.COM

...THINKS OF SASUKE AS A BROTHER.

NARUTO...

.....

THIS OBSESSION WITH SASUKE...

...IT'S ABSURD...

NO.

.....

...SO YOU MUST KNOW WHAT THAT'S LIKE.

YOU HAVE AN OLDER BROTHER...

...I DON'T *HAVE* FEELINGS.

REMEMBER OUR CONVERSATION ABOUT THE PICTURE TITLES?

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289: THE AKATSUKI SPY!!

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MANGA.COM

HE'S YOUR ***BROTHER.*** SURELY YOU MUST FEEL ***SOMETHING*** ...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T ***HAVE*** FEELINGS?

.....

I MEAN EXACTLY WHAT I SAID.

.....

COLORED MANGA.COM

.....

GRRRR

SCRAPE

CLENCH

.....

HMM?

AH, WELL... YOU SEE...

...YOU MUST BE ABLE TO IMAGINE, EVEN A LITTLE, WHAT IT WOULD FEEL LIKE TO LOSE HIM.

BUT EVEN SO...

YOU HAVE A BROTHER, SO...

COLORED MANGA.COM

MY BROTHER IS *DEAD.*

.....

?

...EVEN MORE OF A REASON TO FEEL SOMETHING, THEN...

AND WHAT FACE WOULD I MAKE TO SHOW THAT I DID? ONE LIKE *THAT...?*

COLORED MANGA.COM

SHUF

……

ｸｯ

WELL …

WHEN MY BROTHER DIED, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF EXXPRESSION I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE MAKING.

SAI… I DON'T…

COLORED
MANGA.COM

JERK...

.....

WHIRL

WE'RE FALLING BEHIND SCHEDULE, SO EVERYONE GRAB YOUR PACKS.

ENOUGH CHIT-CHAT.

.....

TRUTH BE TOLD...

...I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CLOBBER YOU AGAIN.

LUCKY YOU, SAI.

COLORED MANGA.COM

.....

..I WOULDN'T HOLD BACK...

I WARNED YOU IF YOU KEPT BAD-MOUTHING SASUKE...

...THAT IN ORDER TO RESCUE SASUKE, HE'D TEAM UP WITH EVEN YOU.

THE ONLY REASON I DIDN'T KNOCK YOU INTO TOMORROW WAS BECAUSE OF WHAT NARUTO SAID...

...I CAN'T AFFORD TO HURT YOU.

FOR ONCE, HE'S BEING MORE FORGIVING THAN I AM... BUT IF YOU CAN HELP US GET OUR TEAMMATE BACK...

COLORED MANGA.COM

……?

HOW DO I SAY THIS...

...YOU'RE BEING CONSIDERATE OF HIS FEELINGS? AM I RIGHT?

SAKURA... YOU AND NARUTO...

IF WE'RE NOT IN PLACE BEFORE NOON TOMORROW, THIS MISSION IS OVER BEFORE IT EVEN STARTS.

CAN WE JUST **GO** ALREADY?

THOUGH THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT IT IN THIS BOOK...

I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW SUCH FEELINGS COME ABOUT...

……

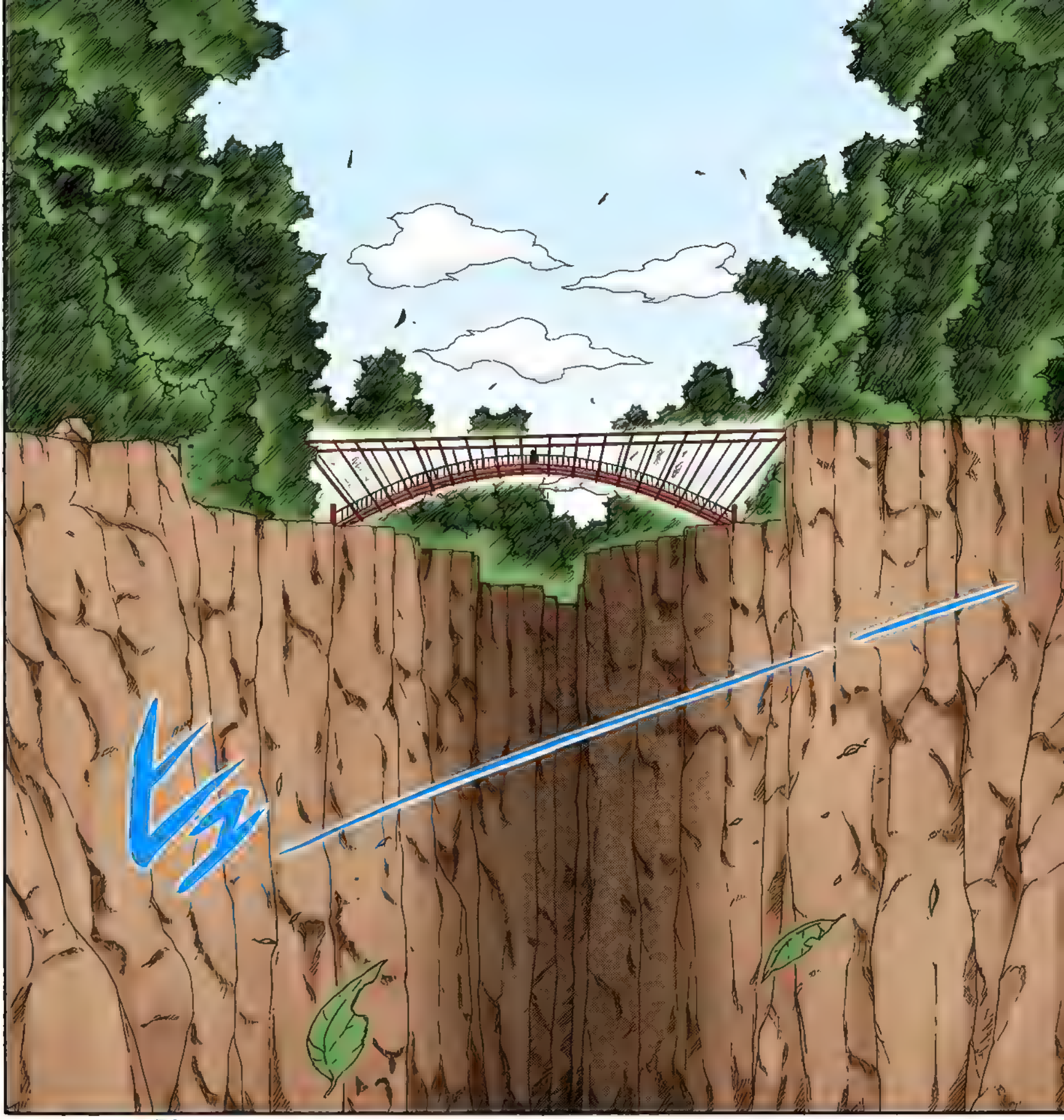
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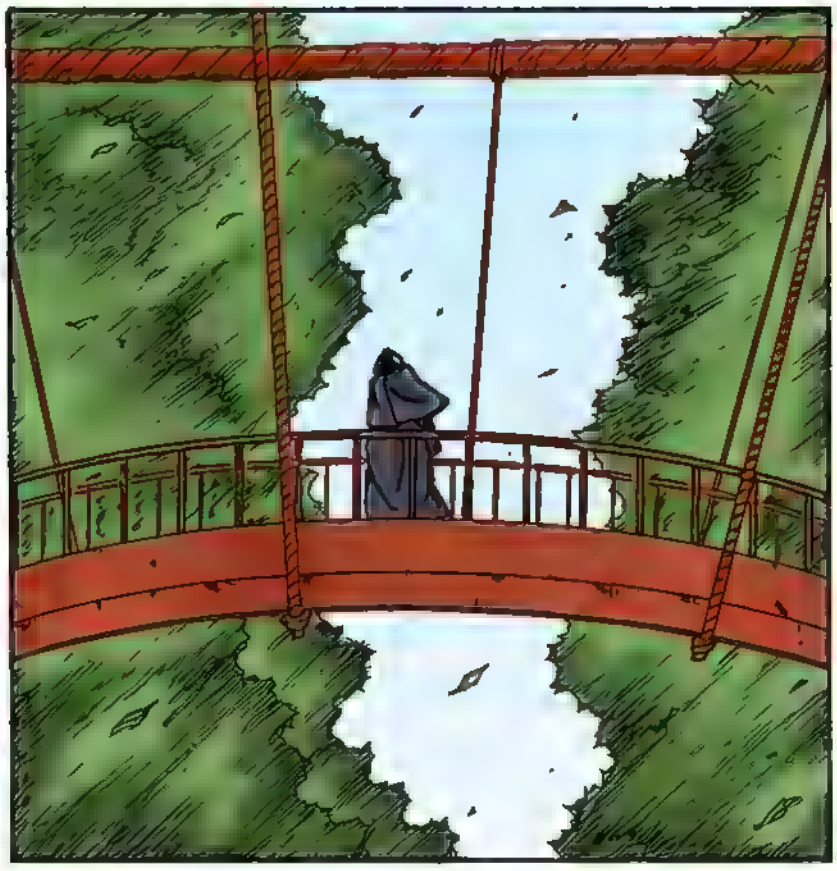
CRUNCH

RUSTLE (POST: TENCHI BRIDGE)

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GOOD LUCK, COMMANDER YAMATO...

.....

SASORI.

TUG

THAT'S ...!

.....

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...HOW THE TIME FLIES.

NO TAIL ...?

...YAKUSHI KABUTO...!

.....

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THERE REMAINS SOME DISORIENTATION FROM WHEN YOUR JUTSU DISSOLVED AND I STARTED REMEMBERING WHO I REALLY WAS...

...BUT IT'LL PASS...

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

NONE, I ASSURE YOU...

THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME, SO PLEASE BE QUICK.

I'VE RISKED MY LIFE JUST COMING HERE.

I HAVE MANY QUESTIONS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE... THE AKATSUKI SPY IS KABUTO...!

HIM AGAIN ...!!

.....

UCHIHA SASUKE...

...WHERE IS HE?

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SOME ARE IN LANDS OUTSIDE THE SOUND...

...THAT OROCHIMARU'S SPIES HAVE INFILTRATED AND MAINTAIN FOR US.

THERE ARE SEVERAL HIDEOUTS ...

...BUT THESE CHANGE FROM WEEK TO WEEK SO HIS LOCATION CANNOT BE PINPOINTED.

UCHIHA SASUKE IS ALSO THERE RIGHT NOW.

WE'RE CURRENTLY LYING LOW AT A SAFEHOUSE ON A SMALL ISLAND IN THE NORTHERN LAKE...

...BUT WE'LL BE MOVING IN THREE DAYS' TIME.

BUT THERE IS NO SET TRANSFER PLAN OR PATTERN...

AND BEING UPWIND BLOWS OUR SCENT IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION, SO HE WON'T DETECT OUR APPROACH.

IDIOT! THE WIND IS EXACTLY WHAT'S KEEPING KABUTO FROM HEARING US TOO!

BLAST! THE WIND'S SO STRONG, I CAN'T HEAR A THING!

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WHIRL

!!

!

HOP

ピョン

POP

ピョン

RUSTLE

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PHEW...

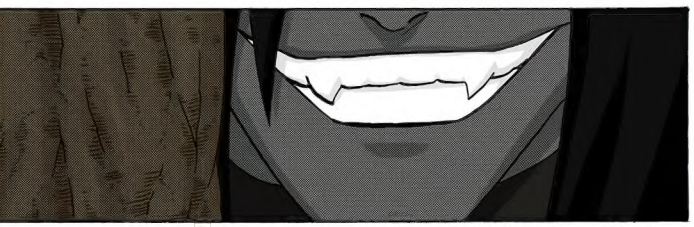
...JUST A RABBIT.

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TO BE CONTINUED IN NARUTO VOLUME 33!

